













NATURAL HISTORY,

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR,

BY THE

COUNT DE BUFFON.

VOL. V.

HISTORY OF BIRDS.



# NATURAL HISTORY,

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR,

BY THE

COUNT DE BUFFON,

ILLUSTRATED WITH ABOVE SIX HUNDRED COPPER-PLATES.

THE

HISTORY OF MAN AND QUADRUPEDS

TRANSLATED, WITH NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS,

BY WILLIAM SMELLIE,

MEMBER OF THE ANTIQUARIAN AND ROYAL SOCIETIES OF EDINBURGH.

---

A NEW EDITION,

CAREFULLY CORRECTED AND CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED, BY MANY  
ADDITIONAL ARTICLES, NOTES, AND PLATES,

AND

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE OF M. DE BUFFON,

BY WILLIAM WOOD, F. L. S.

IN TWENTY VOLUMES.

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## C O N T E N T S.

	PAGE
<i>The Manakins</i> . . . . .	1
1 <i>Tigé, or Great Manakin</i> . . . . .	5
2 <i>Nutcracker</i> . . . . .	7
3 <i>Red Manakin</i> . . . . .	9
4 <i>Orange Manakin</i> . . . . .	11
5 <i>Gold-headed Manakin, the Red-headed Manakin, and the White-headed Manakin</i> . . . . .	13
6 <i>White-throated Manakin</i> . . . . .	15
7 <i>Variegated Manakin</i> . . . . .	16

### *Some Foreign Birds erroneously denominated Manakins.*

1 <i>Bird called Miacatototl by the Brazi- lians</i> . . . . .	17
2 <i>Rubetra. or Crested American Bird</i> . . . . .	18

3 <i>Picicitti, or the Least Crested Bird of Brazil</i> . . . . .	19
4 <i>Coquantototl, or Small Crested Bird, shaped like a Sparrow</i> . . . . .	20

*Species related to the Manakins.*

1 <i>White Plume</i> . . . . .	22
2 <i>Cinereous Bird of Guiana</i> . . . . .	24
3 <i>Papuan Manakin</i> . . . . .	25

<i>The Cock of the Rock</i> . . . . .	27
<i>Peruvian Cock of the Rock</i> . . . . .	31

<i>The Cotingas</i> . . . . .	33
-------------------------------	----

1 <i>Blue Riband</i> . . . . .	36
2 <i>Purple-throated Chatterer</i> . . . . .	38
3 <i>Blue-breasted Chatterer</i> . . . . .	40
4 <i>Silky Chatterer</i> . . . . .	42
5 <i>Pompadour Chatterer</i> . . . . .	44

*Varieties of the Pompadour.*

1 <i>Grey-purple Pompadour</i> . . . . .	46
2 <i>Grey Cotinga</i> . . . . .	47
3 <i>Red Chatterer</i> . . . . .	48
4 <i>Carenculated Chatterer</i> . . . . .	50
5 <i>Variegated Chatterer</i> . . . . .	53

<i>The Guirarou</i> . . . . .	55
-------------------------------	----

*Variety of the Guirarou.*

<i>Gray Cotinga</i> . . . . .	58
-------------------------------	----

# CONTENTS.

iii

PAGE

*The Anters* . . . . . 59

1 *King of the Anters* . . . . . 64

2 *Azurin* . . . . . 66

3 *Great Belfry* . . . . . 67

4 *Small Belfry* . . . . . 69

5 *Palikour, or Anter* . . . . . 70

6 *Colma* . . . . . 72

7 *Tétéma* . . . . . 73

8 *Crested Anter* . . . . . 74

9 *White-eared Anter* . . . . . 76

10 *Chimer* . . . . . 78

11 *Bambla* . . . . . 80

12 *Arada* . . . . . 81

13 *Nightingale Anters* . . . . . 84

14 *Coraya* . . . . . 85

15 *Alapi* . . . . . 86

*The Agami* . . . . . 88

*The Tinamous* . . . . . 100

1 *Great Tinamou* . . . . . 105

2 *Cinereous Tinamou* . . . . . 108

3 *Variegated Tinamou* . . . . . 109

4 *Little Tinamou* . . . . . 111

*The Tocco* . . . . . 113

*The Flycatchers* . . . . . 115

1 *Spotted Flycatcher* . . . . . 118

2 *Collared Black Flycatcher, or the Flycatcher of Lorraine* . . . . . 121

3 *Undulated Flycatcher* . . . . . 127

4 *Senegal Flycatcher* . . . . . 129

5 *Bourbon Flycatcher* . . . . . 132



	PAGE
6 <i>Brown-throated Senegal Flycatcher</i>	136
7 <i>Azure Flycatcher</i>	137
8 <i>Whiskered Flycatcher</i>	139
9 <i>Brown Flycatcher</i>	141
10 <i>Rufous Flycatcher</i>	143
11 <i>Lemon Flycatcher of Louisiana</i>	144
12 <i>Red-eyed Flycatcher</i>	145
13 <i>Martinico Flycatcher</i>	147
14 <i>Black-cap Flycatcher</i>	149
15 <i>Black-and-white Flycatcher</i>	150
16 <i>Cinereous Flycatcher</i>	152
17 <i>Active Flycatcher</i>	154
18 <i>Streaked Flycatcher</i>	155
19 <i>Little Black Aurora Flycatcher of America</i>	157
20 <i>Round-crested Flycatcher</i>	159
21 <i>Rufous Flycatcher</i>	161
22 <i>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</i>	163
23 <i>King of the Flycatchers</i>	165
24 <i>Dwarfish Flycatchers</i>	167
 <i>The Moucherolles</i>	 170
1 <i>Savana</i>	171
2 <i>Crested Moucherolle, with Steel-coloured Head</i>	173
3 <i>Virginian Moucherolle</i>	177
4 <i>Brown Moucherolle of Martinico</i>	179
5 <i>Forked-tail Moucherolle of Mexico</i>	181
6 <i>Moucherolle of the Philippines</i>	183
7 <i>Green-crested Virginian Moucherolle</i>	184
8 <i>Schet of Madagascar</i>	186

# CONTENTS,

v  
PAGE

*The Tyrants* . . . . . 190

1 *Titiri, or Pipiri* . . . . . 191

2 *Tyrant of Carolina* . . . . . 197

3 *Bentaved, or the Cuiriri* . . . . . 200

4 *Cayenne Tyrant* . . . . . 202

5 *Caudec* . . . . . 204

6 *Tyrant of Louisiana* . . . . . 206

*Birds related to the Flycatchers, the Mouche-  
rolles, and the Tyrants.*

1 *Kinki-Manou of Madagascar* . . . . . 207

2 *Red Flycatcher* . . . . . 209

3 *Drongo* . . . . . 211

4 *Piauhau* . . . . . 214

*The Skylark* . . . . . 216

*Varieties of the Skylark.*

1 *White Skylark* . . . . . 233

2 *Black Skylark* . . . . . 235

*The Rufous-backed Lark* . . . . . 237

*The Woodlark* . . . . . 239

*The Titlark* . . . . . 244

*Variety of the Titlark.*

*White Titlark* . . . . . 249

*Foreign Bird related to the Titlark.*

*Louisiana Lark* . . . . . 250

	PAGE
<i>The Grasshopper Lark</i> . . . . .	252
<i>The Willow Lark</i> . . . . .	253
<i>The Meadow Lark</i> . . . . .	257
<i>The Italian Lark</i> . . . . .	261
<i>The Calandre, or Large Lark</i> . . . . .	263

*Foreign Birds analogous to the Calandre Lark.*

1 <i>Cape Lark</i> . . . . .	267
2 <i>Shore Lark</i> . . . . .	269
3 <i>Brown-cheeked Pennsylvanian Lark</i> . . . . .	271

<i>The Marsh Lark</i> . . . . .	274
<i>The Siberian Lark</i> . . . . .	276

*Foreign Birds which are related to the Lark.*

1 <i>Rufous Lark</i> . . . . .	278
2 <i>Cinereous Lark</i> . . . . .	279
3 <i>African Lark</i> . . . . .	281

<i>The Crested Lark</i> . . . . .	282
<i>The Lesser Crested Lark</i> . . . . .	289
<i>The Undated Lark</i> . . . . .	292

*Foreign Bird related to the Crested Lark.*

<i>Senegal Lark</i> . . . . .	294
-------------------------------	-----

<i>The Nightingale</i> . . . . .	296
----------------------------------	-----

*Varieties of the Nightingale.*

1 <i>Great Nightingale</i> . . . . .	323
2 <i>White Nightingale</i> . . . . .	324

# CONTENTS.

vii  
PAGE

## *Foreign Bird related to the Nightingale.*

<i>Foudi-Jafa</i> . . . . .	325
-----------------------------	-----

## *Species of the Fauvette.*

1 <i>Pettychaps</i> . . . . .	327
2 <i>Passerinette, or Little Fauvette</i> . . . . .	334
3 <i>Black-headed Fauvette</i> . . . . .	336
4 <i>Grisette, or the Grey Fauvette, called in Provence Passerine</i> . . . . .	343
5 <i>Babbler Fauvette</i> . . . . .	346
6 <i>Russet, or Fauvette of the Woods</i> . . . . .	350
7 <i>Reed Fauvette</i> . . . . .	354
8 <i>Little Rufous Fauvette</i> . . . . .	358
9 <i>Spotted Fauvette</i> . . . . .	361
10 <i>Winter Fauvette, or Trainee-Buisson, or Mouchet</i> . . . . .	363
11 <i>Alpine Fauvette</i> . . . . .	368
12 <i>Pitchou</i> . . . . .	371

## *Foreign Birds which are related to the Fauvettes.*

1 <i>Spotted Fauvette, from the Cape of Good Hope</i> . . . . .	373
2 <i>Small Spotted Fauvette, from the Cape of Good Hope</i> . . . . .	374
3 <i>Spotted Fauvette, from Louisiana</i> . . . . .	375
4 <i>Yellow-breasted Fauvette, from Louisi- ana</i> . . . . .	377
5 <i>Rufous-tailed Fauvette, from Cayenne</i> . . . . .	378
6 <i>Fauvette of Cayenne, with a Brown Throat and Yellow Belly</i> . . . . .	379
7 <i>Blueish Fauvette of Saint Domingo</i> . . . . .	380

	PAGE
<i>The Yellow-neck</i> . . . . .	382
<i>The Redstart</i> . . . . .	387
<i>The Redtail</i> . . . . .	395
<i>The Guiana Redtail</i> . . . . .	401
<i>The Epicurean Warbler</i> . . . . .	402
<i>The Fist of Provence</i> . . . . .	409
<i>The Ortolan Pivote</i> . . . . .	410
<i>The Redbreast</i> . . . . .	411
<i>The Bluethroat</i> . . . . .	421
 <i>Foreign Bird that is related to the Redbreast and Bluethroat.</i>	
<i>Blue Redbreast of North America</i> . . . . .	426
 <i>The Stonechat</i> . . . . .	429
<i>The Whinchat</i> . . . . .	437
 <i>Foreign Birds that are related to the Stonechat and Whinchat.</i>	
1 <i>Senegal Stonechat or Whinchat</i> . . . . .	441
2 <i>Stonechat from the Island of Luçon</i> . . . . .	442
3 <i>Stonechat of the Philippines</i> . . . . .	444
4 <i>Great Stonechat of the Philippines</i> . . . . .	445
5 <i>Fitert, or Madagascar Stonechat</i> . . . . .	446
6 <i>Great Stonechat</i> . . . . .	448
7 <i>Stonechat of the Cape of Good Hope</i> . . . . .	449
8 <i>Spectacle Warbler</i> . . . . .	451
 <i>The Wheatear</i> . . . . .	454
 <i>Species of the Wheatear</i>	
<i>Wheatear</i> . . . . .	460
<i>Grey Wheatear</i> . . . . .	ib.

# CONTENTS.

ix  
PAGE

3	<i>Cinereous Wheatear</i>	. . . .	461
4	<i>Rusty Wheatear</i>	. . . .	<i>ib.</i>
5	<i>Rufous Wheatear</i>	. . . .	462

## *Foreign Birds which are related to the Wheatear.*

1	<i>Great Wheatear, or White-tail of the Cape of Good Hope</i>	. . . .	464
2	<i>Greenish-brown Wheatear</i>	. . . .	466
3	<i>Senegal Wheatear</i>	. . . .	468



## DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.

	<i>To face Page</i>
CVI. Manakin and Crested Manakin . . . . .	1
CVII. Rock Manakin . . . . .	27
CVIII. Purple-breasted Chatterer . . . . .	36
CIX. Alarum Thrush . . . . .	67
CX. Gold-breasted Trumpeter . . . . .	88
CXI. Great Tinamou . . . . .	105
CXII. Spotted Flycatcher of Lorraine, and Com- mon Spotted Flycatcher . . . . .	118
CXIII. Forked-tail Flycatcher . . . . .	171
CXIV. Grand Tyrant . . . . .	191
CXV. Skylark . . . . .	216
CXVI. Woodlark . . . . .	239
CXVII. Titlark . . . . .	244
CXVIII. Grasshopper Lark . . . . .	252
CXIX. Crested Lark . . . . .	282
CXX. Nightingale and Redbreast . . . . .	296
CXXI. Pettychaps . . . . .	327
CXXII. Blackcap, and Epicurean Warbler . . . . .	336
CXXIII. Hedge Warbler . . . . .	363
CXXIV. Alpine Warbler . . . . .	368
CXXV. Redbreast . . . . .	411
CXXVI. Blue-throated Warbler . . . . .	421
CXXVII. Stonechat, and Wheatear . . . . .	429









FIG.1. THE MANAKIN. FIG.2. THE (RESTED MANAKIN.

# NATURAL HISTORY

OF

## BIRDS.



### THE MANAKINS\*.

THESE birds are small and handsome; the largest are not equal in size to a sparrow, and the others are inferior to that of the wren. The general characters are these: the bill is short, straight, and compressed on the sides near the tip; the upper mandible is convex above, and slightly scalloped on the edges, rather longer than the lower mandible, which is plain and straight.

#### PIPRA.

#### CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* breve, validum, basi subtrigonum, apice incurvum.

*Cauda* brevis.

*Pedes* gressorii.

VOL. V.

In all these birds, the tail is short and square-cut, and the toes have the same disposition as the cock of the rock, the tody, and the Calao, viz. the mid-toe is closely connected to the outer-toe by a membrane, as far as the third joint, and the inner-toe as far as the first joint only. But as much as in that circumstance they resemble the cock of the rock, so much are they removed from the cotingas: yet some authors have ranged the Manakins with the cotingas\*; others have joined them with the sparrows†, with the titmice‡, with the linnets§, with the tanagres||, and with the wren¶; other nomenclators are more culpable for denominating them *Pipra*, or for classing them together with the cock of the rock\*\*, to which they bear no analogy, except in this disposition of the toes and in the square shape of the tail: for, besides the total disproportion in size, the cock of the rock being as large, compared with the Manakins, as the common hen contrasted with a sparrow, there are many other obvious characters which distinguish them: their bill is much shorter in proportion, they are generally not crested, and in those which have a crest, it is not double, as in the cock of the rock, but formed by single feathers, somewhat longer than the rest. We ought therefore to remove from the Manakins,

\* Edwards.      † Klein.      ‡ Linnæus.      § Klein.

|| Macgrave, Willughby, Johnston, Salerne, &c.

¶ Gerini.

\*\* Brisson.

not only the horn-bills, but the cock of the rock, and reckon them an independent genus.

The natural habits common to them all were not known, and the observations which have been made are still insufficient to admit an exact detail. We shall only relate the remarks communicated to us by Sonnini of Manoncour, who saw many of these birds in their native climates. They inhabit the immense forests in the warm parts of America, and never emerge from their recesses to visit the cleared grounds or the vicinity of the plantations. They fly with considerable swiftness, but always at a small height, and to short distances; they never perch on the summits of trees, but on the middle branches; they feed upon small wild fruits, and also eat insects. They generally occur in small bodies of eight or ten of the same species, and sometimes intermingled with other flocks of the same genus, or even of a different genus, such as the Cayenne warblers, &c. It is commonly in the morning that they are found thus assembled, and then seem to be joyous, and warble their delicate little notes; the freshness of the air seems to inspire the song, for they are silent during the burning heat of the day, and disperse and retire to the shade of the thickest parts of the forest. This habit is observed indeed in many kinds of birds, and even in those of the woods of France, where they collect to sing in the morning and evening; but the Manakins never assemble in the evening, and con-

tinue together only from sun-rise to nine or ten o'clock in the forenoon, and remain separate during the rest of the day and the succeeding night. In general, they prefer a cool humid situation, though they never frequent marshes or the margins of lakes.

The name of the *Manakin* was bestowed on these birds by the Dutch settlers at Surinam. We know six distinct species, but we can only give the first the appellation which it has in its native region.

# 'THE TIGE', or GREAT MANAKIN\*.

## *First Species.*

THIS species has been well described by Marcgrave. It is the largest of all the manakins; its total length is four inches and a half, and it is nearly of the bulk of a sparrow; the upper part of its head is covered with fine red feathers, longer than the rest, and which the

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PIPIRA PAREOLA. P. crista sanguinea, corpore nigro, dorso cœruleo.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 555. No. 3.

PIPIRA PAREOLA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 990.

MANACUS CRISTATUS NIGER.—*Brisson* iv. p. 459. 10. t. 35. f. 1.

TIJE-GUACU MARCGR.—*Will.* p. 159.—*Id. (Angl.)* p. 218.

LE TIJE, ou GRAND MANAKIN.—*Buff. par. Sonn.* xlix. p. 241. pl. 123. fig. 2.

LE MANAKIN NOIRE HUPPE.—*Pl. Enl.* 687. f. 2.

VERD HUPPE' de CAYENNE.—*Pl. Enl.* 303. 2. (*junior.*)

BLUE-BACKED MANAKIN.—*Edw.* t. 261. f. 1.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 520. 2.

### HABITAT

in Brasilia, Cayana, Cuba.—4½ pollices longa.

W.



bird can erect at pleasure, which gives it the appearance of being crested; the back and the small superior coverts of the wings are of a beautiful blue, the rest of the plumage is velvet black; the iris is of a fine sapphire colour; the bill is black, and the legs are red.

The Abbe Aubry, Rector of St. Louis, has in his cabinet a bird by the name of *Tise-guacu of Cuba*, which is perhaps a variety of the present, arising from the difference of age or sex; the only distinction being, that the large feathers on the upper part of the head are of a diluter red, and even somewhat yellowish. The designation given to it would seem to imply that it is found in the island of Cuba, and perhaps in other parts of America; but it is very rare at Cayenne, and is a bird of short flight, and therefore it could hardly pass from the continent to Cuba.

The green Manakin with a red crest is the young of this species; several manakins have been observed, whose plumage was interspersed with blue feathers, but the green is obscure. These birds must be frequent in the warm climates of America, for we often received them along with other birds.

## THE NUT-CRACKER\*.

*Second Species.*

WE apply this name, because the cry of this bird is exactly like the noise made by the small instrument with which we crack nuts. It has no other song or warble; it is pretty common in Guiana, especially in the skirts of the forests, for, like the other manakins, it shuns the savannas and cleared grounds. The Nut-crackers live in small flocks with the other manakins, but intermingle not with them; they remain for the most part on the ground, and rarely perch on the branches, and then they uniformly

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PIPRA MANACUS. *P. nigra* sub*tus* alba, macula cervicis alarumque alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 556. No. 6.

PIPRA MANACUS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 1002. — *Bris.* iv. p. 442. 1.

LE CASSE-NOISETTE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 244. pl. 124. f. 1.

LE MANAKIN du BRESIL.—*Pl. Enl.* 302. f. 1.

BLACK-CAPPED MANAKIN.—*Edw. t.* 260. f. 1.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 521. 4.

## HABITAT

in Guianæ sylvis.

W.

prefer the low ones. They seem to live more upon insects than fruits : they are often found among the lines of ants, which sting their feet, and make them hop and utter their nut-cracking cry, which they repeat very often. They are very lively and frisky ; they are seldom at rest, though they only hop, and cannot fly far.

*The plumage is black on the head, the back, the wings, the tail, and white on all the rest of the body ; the bill is black and the legs yellow.*

## THE RED MANAKIN\*.

### *Third Species.*

THE male is of a fine vivid red on the head, the neck, the upper part of the back, and the breast; orange on the forehead, the sides of the head, and the throat; black on the belly, with some red and orange feathers on the same part; black also on the rest of the upper part of the body, the wings; and the tail; all the quills of the wings, except the first, have near the middle, and on the inside, a white spot, which forms

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PIPRA AUREOLA. P. nigra, capite pectoreque coecineis, remigibus antrorsum macula alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 558. No. 11.

PIPRA AUREOLA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 1001.

PARUS AUREOLA.—*Syst. Nat.* x. p. 191.

MANACUS RUBER.—*Bris.* iv. p. 452. G. t. 34. f. 3.

LE MANAKIN ROUGE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 247. pl. 123. f. 1.

LE MANAKIN ROUGE.—*Pl. Enl.* 34. f. 3.

RED AND BLACK MANAKIN.—*Edw.* t. 261. f. 2.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 525. 9.

#### HABITAT

in Guiana, communis.— $3\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa.

a bar of the same colour when the wing is displayed; the top of the wings is of a very deep yellow; their inferior coverts are yellowish; the bill and legs are blackish.

*In the female, the upper part of the body is olive, with a slight appearance of a red crown on the head; the under part of the body is olive-yellow; the shape and bulk are the same as in the male.*

*In the young bird, all the body is olive, with red spots on the forehead, the head, the throat, the breast, and the belly.*

*It is the most common of all the species of manakins in Guiana\*.*

\* Among the numerous skins which Mauduit received of this bird from Cayenne, he found some in which the red feathers of the head and neck, the black of the back and belly, &c. varied to a greenish-grey: he supposes that they must have been young males, shot between the first and second moult.

W.

## THE ORANGE MANAKIN\*.

*Fourth Species.*

EDWARDS is the first author who has given a figure of this bird ; but he was mistaken in supposing it to be the female of the preceding. We have just described the female of the red manakin, and the present is undoubtedly a different species, since it is extremely rare in Guiana, whereas the red manakin is very common. Linnæus has fallen into the same error, because he only copies Edwards.

The head, the neck, the throat, the breast,

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PIPIRA AUREOLA. P. nigra, capite collo inferiore pectore abdomine marginibusque alarum aurantiis, remigibus intus macula alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 558. No. 11. Var. β.

PIPIRA AUREOLA.—*Lin. Syst.* i. p. 339. 7. β.

MANACUS AURANTIUS.—*Bris.* iv. p. 454. 7.

LE MANAKIN ORANGE'.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 302. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 250.

BLACK AND YELLOW MANAKIN.—*Edw.* t. 83. f. 2.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 525. 9. A.

## HABITAT

in Guiana.

W.

and the belly, are of a fine orange, all the rest of the plumage being black; only the wings are marked with some white spots as in the red manakin: like that bird, too, it has blackish legs, but a white bill; so that notwithstanding the similarity in the bar on the wings, in the colour of the legs, and in the bulk and shape of the body, it cannot be regarded as a variety of the red manakin.

- I. THE GOLD-HEADED MANAKIN  
 II. THE RED-HEADED MANAKIN †.  
 III. THE WHITE-HEADED MANAKIN ‡.

*Fifth Species.*

WE presume that these three birds are only varieties of the same species, for they are exactly of the same size, being only three inches and eight lines in length ; whereas all the preceding species, which have been placed in the order of their magnitude, are four inches and a half, and four inches and three-fourths, &c. These three are likewise of the same shape, and even their colours are similar, if we except those of the head, which, in the first, are of a fine yellow, in the second of a bright red, and in the third of a beautiful blue ; there is no other sensible difference in the plumage, which is all uniformly of a fine glossy black : the feathers which cover the thighs are of a pale yellow, with an oblong

\* This is the *Pipra Erythrocephala* of Linnæus and Gmelin, the *Manacus Aurocapillus* of Brisson, and the *Gold-headed Black Titmouse* of Edwards.

† This is a variety of the *Pipra Erythrocephala* of Linnæus, and Willughby's second kind of *Tangara*.

‡ This is the *Pipra Leucocilla* of Linnæus, in his last edition, the *Parus Pipra* in the eleventh edition, the *Pipra Leucocapilla* of Gmelin, and the *White-capped Manakin* of Edwards and Latham.



spot of bright red on the exterior surface. In the first, indeed, the bill is whitish and the legs black; in the second, the bill is black and the legs cinereous; and in the third, the bill is brown-grey, and the legs reddish: but these slight differences do not appear sufficient to constitute three separate species, and perhaps one of them is only the female of another. However, Mauduit, to whom I communicated this article, assured me that he never saw, in the White-headed Manakin, the red feathers that cover the knee in the Golden-headed Manakin: if this difference were invariable, we might infer that these formed two separate species of manakins: but Sonnini assured us, that he has seen White-headed Manakins with red feathers on their knees, and there is some reason to suspect that the specimens observed by Mauduit were mutilated.

These manakins are found in the same situations, and are pretty common in Guiana. It would even appear that the species is spread through several other warm countries, as Brazil and Mexico. We have learnt nothing particular in regard to their instincts and economy. We are certain only that, like the other manakins, they constantly live in the woods, and that they have the chirping common to the whole genus, except the nut-cracker.

# THE WHITE-THROATED MAN- AKIN\*.

## VARIETY.

THIS differs from the preceding by the colours of its head, which is glossy black like the rest of the plumage, except a kind of white collar which rises on the neck, and tapers to a point on the breast. It is exactly of the same size as the three preceding, being only three inches eight lines in length. We know not from what country it is brought, having seen it only in private cabinets, where it was mentioned by this name without any other indication. Sonnini never met with it in Guiana; however, it is probably, like the three others, a native of the warm climates in America.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PIPRA GUTTURALIS. P. nigra, gutture albo.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 557. No. 10.

PIPRA GUTTURALIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 1002.

MANACUS GUTTURE ALBO.—*Bris.* iv. p. 444. 2. t. 36. f. 1.

LE MANAKIN à GORGE BLANCHE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 324. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 257.

WHITE-THROATED MANAKIN.—*Lath. Syn.* iv, p. 524. 8.

### HABITAT

In Americæ calidioribus.— $3\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa.

W.

## THE VARIEGATED MANAKIN\*.

### *Sixth Species.*

WE have given the epithet of *variegated*, because the plumage is interspersed with spots of different colours, which are all very beautiful and distinct. The forehead is of a fine dead white; the crown of the head is of a beryl colour; the rump of a brilliant blue; the belly of a shining orange, and all the rest of the plumage of a fine velvet black; the bill and legs are black. It is the prettiest and smallest of all the manakins, being not more than three inches and a half long, and not bigger than a wren.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PIPRA SERENA. P. nigra, fronte alba, uropygio cayanea, ventre fulvo.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 556. No. 5.

PIPRA SERENA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 1002.

MANACUS ALBA FRONTE.—*Bris.* iv. p. 457. 936. f. 2.

LE MANAKIN VARIE'.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 259.

————— à FRONT BLANC de CAYENNE.—*Pl. Enl.* 324. f. 1.

WHITE-FRONTED MANAKIN.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 521. 3.

### HABITAT

in Cayana et Guiana, inter rariores.— $3\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa. W. \*

It is found in Guiana, whence we received it; but it is very rare, and we are unacquainted with its habits.

Besides the six species and their varieties, which we have now described, modern nomenclators apply the name of Manakin to four birds mentioned by Seba, and which we shall here notice, only to show the errors into which such artificial classifications lead.

The first is thus described by Seba:—

*Bird called Miacatototl by the Brazilians\*.*

“ Its body is ornamented with blackish feathers, and its wings with feathers of turkey-blue; its head is blood-coloured, and has a golden-yellow collar round the neck and throat; the bill and legs are of a pale yellow.” Brisson, who had not seen the bird, adds the dimensions and other details, which are furnished neither by Seba, nor by any other author. It is also strange that Seba should bestow the appellation of *Miacatototl* upon this bird, which he says was brought from Brazil; for that word is not in the language of that country, but is a Mexican word, and signifies the *Maize-bird*. But

\* This is the *Pipra Torquata* of Gmelin, the *Manacus Torquatus* of Brisson, and the *Collared Manakin* of Latham

that Seba was mistaken in this application is evinced by the circumstance that Fernandez employs the same term in describing a Mexican bird which is very different. His words are these :--

*Of the Miacatototl, or Maize-bird.*

“ It is pretty small; so called because it usually sits upon the shoots of maize; the belly is palish, and the rest of its body black, but with white feathers interspersed; its wings and tail are ash-coloured below. It frequents cool places, and is good eating.” Seba has manifestly confounded therefore two different birds under the same name. But the description of Fernandez is as imperfect as that of Seba, whose figure is still worse; so that it is impossible to decide the arrangement.

The same is the case with another bird mentioned by Seba, under the name of

*Rubetra, or Crested American Bird\*.*

“ It is not one of the smallest singing birds,” says he; “ it has a yellow crest, its bill too is yellow, except the under mandible, which is brown; the plumage round the neck, and on the body, is of a yellow rufous; the tail, and

\* This is the *Pipra Rubetra* of Linnæus and Gmelin, the *Manacus Cristatus Rufus* of Brisson, and the *Yellow Manakin* of Latham.

the great quills of the wings, are of a shining blue, while the small quills are pale yellow." From this description of Seba, Brisson has ventured to range this bird among the Manakins; but if he had inspected the figure, though it is a very bad one, he would have perceived the tail to be very long, the bill thin, curved, and elongated; characters quite different from those of the Manakins. I should therefore conclude, that this bird is still farther removed from the Manakins than the preceding.

A third bird which our nomenclators have reckoned a Manakin, is that mentioned by Seba under the name of

*Piciciti, or the Least Crested Bird of Brazil\*.*

"The body and wings are purple, which here and there is deeper; the crest is a most beautiful yellow, and formed by a small tuft of feathers: its bill is pointed, and its tail red. In short, this little bird is very handsome, whatever view we take of it." From this confused description, Brisson concludes the bird to be a Manakin, and adds the dimensions and other circumstances without citing his authorities; yet Seba tells us that its bill is pointed; and

\* This is the *Pipra Cristata* of Linnæus and Gmelin, the *Manacus Cristatus Ruber* of Brisson, and the *Purple Manakin* of Latham.

his figure is very imperfect. Besides, he is mistaken in asserting that it is a Brazilian bird, for the name *Piciciti* is Mexican; and Fernandez employs the same word to describe another bird which is certainly Mexican.

“ The *Piciciti* is likewise a native of Tetzcoqua; it is very small, and its body wholly cinereous, except its head and neck, which are black, with white spots encircling the eyes (which are large), the front extending on the breast. These birds appear after rain. If they be raised in the house they soon die. They have no song. They are excellent food; but the Indians are uncertain where they breed.”

It is easy to see that there is no relation between this bird and that of Seba, who has very injudiciously occasioned a confusion of terms.

The same remark may be made with regard to the fourth bird described by Seba, under the name of

*Coquantototl*, or *Small Crested Bird*, shaped like a Sparrow\*.

“ Its bill is yellow, short, curved, and bent backwards, There is a yellow spot above the eyes; the stomach and belly are of a pale blueish-yellow; the wings are of the same colour, and mixed with some slender carnation feathers, but

\* This is the *Pipra Grisea* of Gmelin, the *Manacus Cristatus Griseus* of Brisson, and the *Grey Manakin* of Latham..

the principal feathers are ash-grey ; the rest of the body is grey ; there is a small crest behind the head." From this indication Brisson has inferred that the bird is a Manakin ; but the shape of the bill is alone sufficient to evince the contrary ; and besides, since it is shaped like a sparrow, its form must be different from that of the Manakins. It is evident, therefore, that this bird, whose name also is Mexican, is widely removed from the genus of the Manakins.—We shall not venture at present to assign the rank of the four birds, but wait till inquisitive travellers may have thrown light upon the subject.



## SPECIES

WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE MANAKIN.

## THE WHITE PLUME\*.

THIS species is new. It is found in Guiana, but rare. M. de Manoncour presented a specimen to the king's cabinet. It is distinguished by a very long white crest, consisting of feathers about an inch in length, and which it erects at pleasure. It differs from the manakins by its size, being six inches long; whereas the largest of the manakins is only four inches and a half; the tail too is long and tapered, which in the manakins is short and square; and the bill is much longer in proportion, and more hooked

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PIPERA ALBIFRONS.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 561. Var.  $\beta$ .

LE PLUMET BLANC.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 268.

LE MANICUP de CAYENNE.—*Pl. Enl.* 707. f. 1.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 531. A.

## HABITAT

in Cayana.—6 pollices longa.

W.

than that of the manakins. Indeed, the only property in which it resembles the manakins is, the arrangement of the toes; and but for this character it might be ranged with the anteaters; we may regard it as forming the intermediate shade. We are unacquainted with its economy.

## THE CINEREOUS BIRD OF GUIANA\*.

THIS species is new. We shall only observe, that it ought not to be regarded as a true manakin; for its tail is much longer, and tapered, and its bill is longer; but as it resembles the manakins in the disposition of its toes, and in the figure of the bill, we ought to place it after them.

This bird is found in Guiana, but is not frequent. It was presented by M. de Manoncour to the king's cabinet.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PIPRA ATRICAPILLA. P. cinerea, subtus griseo-alba, tectricibus alarum majoribus remigibusque nigricantibus, vertice nigro.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 561. No. 22.

PIPRA ATRICAPILLA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 1003.

L'OISEAU CENDRE' de la GUIANE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 270.

LE MANAKIN CENDRE' de CAYENNE.—*Pl. Enl.* 687. f. 1,  
BLACK-CROWNED MANAKIN.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 532. 19.

### HABITAT

in Guiana.—6 pollices longa.

W.

## THE PAPUAN MANAKIN\*.

THIS is a new species brought from New Guinea to the king's cabinet by Sonnerat. It differs from the manakins, as the two middle quills of the tail are shorter than the lateral ones, and as it wants the scallop that occurs on the upper mandible in all the manakins : so that we ought to exclude it from the genus of the manakins, especially as these birds, which are natives of America, are not probably found in New Guinea.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PIPRA PAPUENSIS. P. nigro-virescens, subtus albida, pectore macula ovata fulva, rectricibus 2 intermediis brevioribus.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 561. No. 23.

PIPRA PAPUENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 1004.

LE MANIKOR †.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 707. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 272.

PAPUAN MANAKIN.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 532. 20.

### HABITAT

in Nova Guinea.— $3\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa.

W.

† This name is contracted for *Manakin Orangé*, ~~Buffon~~ having taken it at first for a manakin.

The upper part of the body is black, with greenish reflections ; the under part of the body is of a dirty white ; there is an oblong orange spot on the breast, which extends as far as the belly ; the bill and legs are black. But Sonnerat could give no information with respect to its manner of living.





THE ROCK MANAKIN.

## THE COCK OF THE ROCK\*.

THOUGH this bird is of an uniform colour, it is one of the most beautiful of South America; for this colour is very beautiful, and its plumage nicely tapered. It feeds upon fruits, perhaps for want of seeds; since it differs from the gallinaceous tribe by the shape of its toes only, which are connected by a membrane, the first and second as far as the third joint, and the second with the third no farther than the first joint. The tail is very short and square, as are some coverts of the wings; several of these fea-

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**PIFRA RUPICOLA.** P. crista erecta margine purpurea, corpore croceo, tectricibus rectricum truncatis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 554. No. 1.

**PIFRA RUPICOLA.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 898.—*Bris.* iv. p. 437. 1. t. 34. f. 1.

**LE COQ-DE-ROCHE.**—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 39. (mas.) 747. (fem.) —*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 282. pl. 125. f. 1.

**HOOPOE HEN.**—*Edw.* t. 204.

**CRESTED MANAKIN.**—*Gen. Birds,* p. 64. t. 10.

**ROCK MANAKIN.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 518. 1.

### HABITAT

in Surinamo, Guiana; magnitudine Turturis. —11-12 pō-  
lices longa. W.



thers have a sort of fringe on each side, and the first great feather of each wing is scalloped from the tip to one-third of its length; but what characterises it the best is, a beautiful crest on the crown, longitudinal, and of a semicircular form. In the minute descriptions which Brisson and Vosmaër have given, this crest is imperfectly depicted; it is not single but double, consisting of two inclined planes that meet at the vertex. In other respects their descriptions are accurate, except that they are applicable only to the male. The plumage of the male is of a fine red; that of the female is entirely brown, only there are some shades of rust-colour on the rump, the tail, and the feathers of the wings. The crest of the female is also double, but not so thick, so tall, so round, or so far protruded on the bill, as in the male. Both male and female are generally thicker and larger than the ring-pigeon; but the different individuals probably vary in size; for Brisson represents this bird of the bulk of a Roman pigeon, and Vosmaër asserts that it is rather smaller than the common pigeon. This difference might also be occasioned by the manner of stuffing the specimens; but in the natural state, the female, though somewhat smaller than the male, is undoubtedly much larger than the common pigeon.

The male assumes not the fine red till he has attained some age; the first year he is only brown like the female; but as he grows up, his plumage becomes marked with points and spots of

rufous, which gradually deepen into red, though perhaps not perfected before advanced age.

Though this bird must have attracted the notice of all who ever saw it, no traveller has described its habits and economy. Sonnini de Manoncour is the first who has observed it with attention. It lodges not only in the deep clefts of the rocks, but even in the large dark caverns which totally exclude the solar rays; a circumstance that has induced many to believe it to be a nocturnal bird; whereas it flies and sees distinctly in the day-time: however, it seems naturally to prefer gloomy recesses, since it is most frequent in caves which cannot be entered without the light of torches. We may therefore presume, that their eyes are constructed like those of cats, and adapted both for the day and the night. The male and female are equally lively, and extremely wild. It is impossible to shoot them, unless the person be concealed behind a rock, where he must often wait several hours before an opportunity occurs; for the instant they perceive him, they escape to a distance by a flight which is rapid, though rather low and short. They feed upon small wild fruits, and usually scrape the ground, clap their wings, and shake themselves like the dunghill fowls; but they neither crow like the cock, nor cluck like the hen. Their cry resembles the sound of the syllable *ké*, pronounced with a shrill drawling tone. They construct their nest rudely in the holes of rocks with small dry

sticks; and commonly lay two white spherical eggs, which are of the size of those of pigeons.

The males emerge oftener from their caverns than the females, which seldom appear, and probably do not quit their retreats except in the night. They can easily be tamed, and M. de Manoncour saw one at the Dutch-post on the river Maroni, which was allowed freely to live and run about with the poultry.

They are found in great numbers on the mountain Luca, near Oyapoc, and on the mountain Courouaye, near the river Aprouack; and these are the only parts in this region of America whence we can expect to procure these birds. They are much esteemed for the sake of their beautiful plumage, and are very scarce and dear; because the savages and negroes, whether from superstition or fear, will not venture into the dark caverns where they lodge.

## THE PERUVIAN COCK OF THE ROCK \*.

THERE is another species, or rather variety of the Cock of the Rock, which is found in the provinces of Peru; its tail is much longer than that of the preceding, and its feathers have not square ends; its wings are not fringed; instead of an uniform red, both wings and tail are black, and the rump cinereous; the crest also is different, being lower and consisting of detached feathers: in other respects, this Peruvian bird resembles the Guiana Cock of the Rock so closely, that we may regard it as a variety of the same species.

We might consider these birds as the representatives of our dunghill poultry in the New

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PIPRA PERUVIANA. P. corpore croceo-rubro, tectricibus alarum majoribus cinereis, remigibus caudaque nigris, tectricibus rectricum non truncatis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 555. No. 2.

LE COQ-DE-ROCHE de PEROU.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 745.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 290. pl. 125. f. 2.

PERUVIAN MANAKIN.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 519. 1. A.

### HABITAT

in Peru.

W.

World; but I am told that, in the interior parts of Guiana and Mexico, there are wild fowls which bear still more analogy. These are indeed much smaller, being scarcely of the size of a common pigeon; they are generally brown and rufous; but they have the same shape, the same little fleshy comb on the head, and the same port as our ordinary fowl; their tail is also similar in shape and position, and the males have the crow of the cock, though feebler. The savages who inhabit the remote tracts are perfectly well acquainted with these birds, but have never reduced them to the domestic state; nor is this in the least surprising, for they have tamed none of the animals which might have proved useful, especially the hoëcos or curássos, the marails and the agamis, among the birds; and the tapirs, the pecaris, and the agamis, among the quadrupeds. On the contrary, the ancient Mexicans, who were civilised, domesticated some animals, and particularly these small brown fowls. Gemeli Carreri relates, that they were called *Chiacchialacca*; and he subjoins, that they were precisely like our common poultry, only rather smaller, and their feathers brownish.

## THE COTINGAS \*.

FEW birds have such beautiful plumage as the Cotingas; all those who have had an opportunity of seeing them, whether travellers or naturalists, seem to have been charmed, and speak of them with rapture. Nature has selected her choicest and her richest colours, and spread them with elegance and profusion; the painting glows with all the tints of blue, of violet, of red, of orange, of purple, of snow-white, and glossy black; sometimes these tints melt into each other by the sweetest gradations; at other times they are contrasted with wonderful taste: the various reflections heighten and enliven the whole. The merit is intrinsic; it is expressive; it is inimitable.

All the species, or, if we choose, all the branches of the brilliant family of the Cotingas belong to the New Continent; and there is no foundation for what some have alleged, that they are found

### \* AMPELIS.

#### CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* rectum, convexum, subincurvatum, utrinque emarginatum.

*Nares* pennis obtectæ.

*Digitus* exterior medio basi connexus.

in Senegal. They appear to delight in warm countries; they seldom occur south of Brazil, or roam north of Mexico; and consequently they would hardly traverse the immense stretch of ocean that separates the continents in those latitudes.

All that we know of their habits is, that they never perform distant journeys, but have only periodical flittings, which are confined within a narrow circle: they appear twice a-year in the plantations; and though they arrive nearly at the same time, they are never observed in flocks. They generally haunt the sides of creeks in swampy ground\*, which has occasioned some to call them water-fowls. They find among the aquatic plants abundance of insects, on which they feed, and particularly what are termed *karias* in America, and which, according to some, are wood-lice; and according to others, a sort of ants. The creoles have, it is said, more motives than one for hunting after these birds;—the beauty of the plumage, which pleases the eye; and, according to some, the delicacy of the flesh, which flatters the palate. But it is difficult to obtain both; for the plumage is often spoiled in attempting to skin the bird; and this is probably the reason why so many imperfect specimens are now brought from America. It is said that they alight

\* Mr. Edwards, who was unacquainted with the economy of the Cotingas, conjectured, from the structure of their feet, that they frequented marshes.

among the rice-crops, and do considerable injury : if this be true, the creoles have still another reason for destroying them \*.

The size varies in the different species, from that of a small pigeon to that of a red-wing, or even under ; in all of them the bill is broad at the base ; the edges of the upper mandible, and often those of the lower, are scalloped near the tip ; the first *phalanx* of the outer-toe joined to that of the mid-toe ; and lastly, in most of them, the tail is a little forked or notched, and consists of twelve quills.

\* The little which I have related of the habits of the Cotingas was communicated by M. Aublet : but I must add, that M. de Manoucour heard that the flesh of the Cotingas was much esteemed at Cayenne ; perhaps this is true only of some species.



## THE BLUE RIBAND\*.

A BRIGHT blue is spread on the upper part of the body, of the head, and of the neck, on the rump, the superior coverts of the tail, and the small coverts of the wings; the same colour appears also on the inferior coverts of the tail, the lower belly, and the thighs. A fine violet-purple covers the throat, the neck, the breast, and a part of the belly, as far as the thighs; and on this ground is traced, at the breast, a belt of the same blue with that of the back, and which has

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

AMPELIS COTINGA. A. nīdissima cærulea, subtus purpurea, alis caudaque nigris.—*Lath. Ind. Orn. i. p. 364. No. 2.*

AMPELIS COTINGA.—*Gmel. Syst. i. p. 840.—Bris. ii. p. 340. t. 34. f. 10.*

LE COTINGA du BRÉSIL.—*Pl. Enl. 188. (mas.) 186. (femina.)*

LE CORDON BLEU.—*Buff. par Sonn. xlix. p. 293. pl. 123. f. 1.*

PURPLE-BREASTED MANAKIN†.—*Gen. of Birds, p. 63, t. 9. —Edw. t. 340. (mas.) 241. (femina.)—Lath. Sun. iii. p. 94. 2.*



THE PURPLE-BREASTED CHATTERER



procured this bird the appellation of *Blue Riband*, or *Knight of the Holy Ghost*. Below the first belt there is in some subjects another of a beautiful red, besides many flame-spots on the neck and the belly : these spots are not disposed regularly, but scattered with that negligence in which nature seems to delight, and which art labours in vain to imitate.

All the quills of the tail and of the wings are black, but those of the tail, and the middle ones of the wings, are edged exteriorly with blue.

The specimen which I observed was brought from Brazil ; its total length was eight inches ; its bill ten lines ; its alar extent thirteen inches ; its tail two inches and two-thirds, composed of twelve quills, and projecting eighteen lines beyond the wings. The one described by Brisson was every way somewhat larger, and of the size of a thrush.

The female has neither of these belts ; nor has it the flame spots on the belly and breast \*. In every other respect it resembles the male ; the bill and legs of both are black, and the ground-colour of their feathers is blackish, and that of the purple feathers white ; and the *tarsus* is covered behind with a sort of down.

\* " At Cayenne there are two other (Blue-Riband Thrushes)," says Salerne, " which resemble this exactly, except that the one wants these spots, and the other the blue riband.

## THE PURPLE-THROATED CHATTERER\*.

THE greatest portion of each of its feathers, reckoning from their insertion, is black; but as the tips are beryl, this is really the predominant colour of the plumage. In some parts of the upper surface of the body the dark hue strikes through the coverts, but then it forms only small specks; and it is totally concealed by the blue in the under surface of the body: only, in some specimens, there are, near the rump and the thighs, a few small feathers, which are partly black, and partly purple-red.

The throat and a part of the neck are covered with a broad spot of a very bright violet-purple,

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

AMPELIS CAYANA. *A. nitida cærulea, collo subtus violaceo, remigibus rectricibusque nigris cæruleo marginatis.*  
—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 365. No. 3.

AMPELIS CAYANA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 840.

COTINGA CAYANENSIS.—*Bris.* ii. p. 344. 32. t. 34. f. 3.

LE QUEREIVA.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 624.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 301.

PURPLE-THROATED CHATTERER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 95. 3.

### HABITAT

in Cayana.

W.

which in different subjects varies in extent. The coverts of the wings, their quills, and those of the tail, are almost all black, edged or tipped with beryl; the bill and legs are black.

This bird is found in Cayenne; it is of the size of the red-wing, and fashioned like the preceding, except that the wings, when closed, reach not the middle of the tail, which is rather longer.

## THE BLUE-BREASTED CHAT. • TERER\*.

LINNÆUS is the first, and even the only one, who has hitherto described this bird: the head, the top of the neck, the quills of the wings and of the tail, are black; the throat, the breast, the lower part of the back, the outer edge of the quills of the wings, light blue: there is a transverse bar of light blue on the superior coverts of the same quills; the belly is yellowish-white, and the sides are of a deeper cast. Linnæus does not inform us from what country it is brought; but it is probable that it is a native of America, like the other *Cotingas*. I should be even tempted to regard it as a variety of the

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

AMPELIS TERSA. A, nitida-cærulea, dorso nigro, abdomine albo-flavescente,—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 365. No. 4.

AMPELIS TERSA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 841.

LA TERSINE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 304.

BLUE-BREASTED CHATTERER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 95. 4.

### HABITAT

in America meridionali,

W.

preceding, since blue and black are the prevailing colours of the upper part of the body, and the colours of the under part are dilute, as usual in the females, the young birds, &c. A sight of the subject would be necessary to decide the question.



## THE SILKY CHATTERER\*.

ALMOST all the feathers in the body of this bird, and the coverts of the wings and of the tail, are unwebbed, and parted in the filaments; so that they resemble silky bristles more than real feathers: a property which is sufficient to distinguish it from all the other Cotingas. The general colour of its plumage is bright blue, varying into a fine sky-blue, as in the preceding; but we must except the throat, which is deep violet, and the quills of the tail and of the wings, which are blackish; most of these are edged exteriorly with blue; the feathers of the head and of the upper part of the neck are long and narrow, and the ground colour is brown; that of the feathers of the body and breast, &c.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

AMPELIS MAYNANA. A. nitida cærulea, gula violacea remigibus intus albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 365. No. 5.

AMPELIS MAYNANA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 840.

COTINGA MAYNANENSIS.—*Bris.* iii. p. 341. 2. t. 34. f. 2.

LE COTINGA à PLUMES SOYEUSES.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 229.

—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 306.

SILKY CHATTERER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 96. 5.

### HABITAT

in Maynanensi regione.— $7\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa.

W.

consists of two colours; at the insertion of these feathers it is white, and then purple-violet, which in some parts strikes through the blue of the incumbent feathers; the bill is blue, and the legs are black.

Total length seven inches and one-third; the bill nine or ten lines; the tarsus the same; the alar extent thirteen inches and one-third; the tail about three inches, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeds the wings by an inch\*.

\* This is said to be a rare bird. It inhabits the banks of the river Amazon.

W.

## THE POMPADOUR CHATTERER\*.

ALL the plumage of this beautiful bird is bright glossy purple, except the quills of its wings, which are whitish tipped with brown; and the inferior coverts of the wings, which are entirely white: the under side of the tail is of a lighter purple; the ground of the feathers on every part of the body is white; the legs are blackish; the bill grey-brown, and on each side of its base rises a small whitish streak, which, passing under the eyes, bounds the face.

The great coverts of the wings are oddly fashioned, long, narrow, stiff, pointed, and spout-shaped; their vanes parted, their shaft white, and without webs at its tip, which re-

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

AMPELIS POMPADORA. *A. purpurea, tectricibus alarum proximis ensiformibus elongatis carinatis rigidis.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 365. No. 6.

AMPELIS POMPADORA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 839.

COTINGA PURPUREA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 347. 5. t. 35. f. 1.

LE PACAPAC, ou POMPADOUR.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 279.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 308.

POMPADOUR CHATTERER.—*Edw.* t. 341.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 96. 6.

### HABITAT

in Cayana, Guiana.—7½ pollices longa.

W.

somble in some degree the appendices that terminate the wing in the common chatterer (*Jaseur*), and is nothing but the projection of the shaft beyond the webs. This is not the only point of resemblance between these two species; in the shape of their bill, their size, the proportional dimensions of their tail, their feet, &c.; but their instincts are very different, since the common chatterer prefers the mountains, and all the species of *Cotingas* frequent the low marshy grounds.

Total length seven inches and a half; the bill ten or eleven lines; the tarsus nine or ten lines; the alar extent above fourteen inches; the tail two inches and a half, consisting of twelve quills, and projecting from six to eight lines beyond the wings.

The Pompadour is migratory; it appears in Guiana near the inhabited spots in March and September, when the fruits on which they feed are ripe; they lodge among the large trees on the banks of rivers, and nestle on the highest branches, but never retire into the wide forests. The specimen from which this description was made came from Cayennè.

## VARIETIES of the POMPADOUR.

### I. THE GREY-PURPLE POMPADOUR\*.

It is rather smaller than the preceding, but its proportions are exactly the same; the great coverts of its wings have the same singular conformation, and it inhabits the same country. So many common properties leave no room to doubt, that, though the plumage be different, these two birds belong to the same species; and since the present is smaller, I should be apt to suppose it to be a young one that has not acquired its full growth, or the finished colours of its plumage: all that was purple in the preceding is, in the present, variegated with purple and cinereous; the under side of the tail is rose-coloured; the quills of the tail are brown; what appears of those of the wings are also

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

AMPELIS POMPADORA.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 366. Var.  $\beta$ .

COTINGA CINEBEOPURPUREA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 349. G. t. 35.

f. 2.—*Id.* 8vo. i. p. 255.

LE COTINGA GRIS-POURPRE'.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 699.

LE PACAPAC GRIS-POURPRE'.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 311.

GREY CHATTERER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 97. G. A.

#### HABITAT

cum priore, forte junior.

W.

brown; the interior and concealed part of their shaft is white from its insertion, to two-thirds of its length; and also the middle ones are edged exteriorly with white.

II. M. Daubenton the younger and myself have seen, at Mauduit's a Grey Cotinga, which appeared to belong to the species of the Pompadour, and to be only younger than the preceding, but which ought not to be confounded with another which is also called the Grey Cotinga, and which I shall presently describe under the name of *Guirarou* \*.

It is probable that these are not the only varieties which exist of this species, and that others will be found among the females of different ages.

\* M. de Manoncour has verified our conjectures on the spot. In his last voyage to Cayenne, he found that the Purple-grey Cotinga is the young bird, and that it takes at least eighteen months to acquire its full colour.

## THE RED CHATTERER\*.

THE prevailing colour of its plumage is red, but diversified by various tints, which it assumes in different parts; the most vivid, which is scarlet, is spread over the upper part of the head, and forms a sort of crown or cap, of which the feathers are pretty long, and are conjectured by Edwards to rise like a crest: the same scarlet covers the lower part of the belly, the thighs, the lower part of the back, and almost to the end of the tail-quills, which are tipped with black; the sides of the head, the neck, the back, and the wings are shaded, with deep tints, which change the red into a fine soft crimson; but the darkest cast is a sort of

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

AMPELIS CARNIFEX. *A. ruber*, fascia oculari remigum rectricumque apicibus nigris.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 366. No. 7.

AMPELIS CARNIFEX.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 839.

COTINGA RUBRA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 351. 7.

LE COTINGA ROUGE, ou l'OUETTE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 378.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 314.

RED BIRD FROM SURINAM.—*Edw.* t. 39.

RED CHATTERER.—*Lath Syn.* iii. p. 97. 7.

### HABITAT

in Cayana, Guiana.

W.

border which surrounds the scarlet cap, and this is a little more dilute behind the neck and on the back, and more so on the throat and breast; the coverts of the wings are edged with brown, and the great quills become more and more obscure, and terminate almost in black; the bill is a dull red; the legs dirty yellow; and, what is remarkable, the tarsus is covered with a sort of down as far as the origin of the toes.

The red cotinga migrates, or rather flits, like the pompadour, only it is more common in the interior parts of Guiana.

Total length about seven inches; the bill nine lines; the legs seven lines; the tail two inches and a half, and projects twenty lines beyond the wings, and consequently the alar extent is less than in the preceding species\*.

\* The female differs from the male, her plumage being dark red-brown. The wing-feathers and the tail, however, are similar.

W.



## THE CARUNCULATED CHATTERER\*.

LAËT is the only person who has mentioned this bird, and all that he says amounts to no more than that its plumage is white and its cry very loud. Since his time, the species has been in a manner lost, even in Cayenne; and M. de Manoncour has the merit of rediscovering it.

Both the male and the female are figured in the *Planches Enluménées*. They were perched upon trees beside a swamp when they were killed; they were betrayed by their cry, which, as Laët † observed, was very loud; and it re-

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

AMPELIS CARUNCULATA. A. alba, uropygio remigibus rectricibusque flavescente adumbratis, fronte denudata elongata carunculata.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 366.

AMPELIS CARUNCULATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 841.

COTINGA ALBA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 356. 18.

LE COTINGA BLANC.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 793. 794.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 317. pl. 126. fig. 1.

CARUNCULATED CHATTERER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 98. 8. t. 40.

### HABITAT

in Cayana, Brasilia.—12 pollices longa.

W.

† Voyagers say, that its voice resembles the sound of a

sembled the sound of the two syllables *in an*, uttered with an exceedingly drawling tone.

The most remarkable character of these birds is, a sort of caruncle under the bill as in the turkeys, but differently organized: it is flaccid and pendulous when the bird is composed at rest; but when the passions are roused, it swells in every dimension, and, in this state of tension, is more than two inches long, and three or four lines in circumference at the base: this effect is produced by air, which is driven through an aperture of the palate into the cavity of the caruncle, and inflates it\*.

This caruncle differs from that of the turkey also in another circumstance; it is covered with small white feathers; and besides, it is not peculiar to the male. The plumage of the female is, however, entirely different: for in the male the bill and legs are black, all the rest of a pure spotless white, except some tints of yellow on the rump, and on some of the quills of the tail and of the wings: but in the female the colour is not so uniform; the upper part of the head, body, the superior coverts of the wings, and most of the quills of the wings and of the tail, are olive mixed with grey; the lateral quills of the tail grey, edged with yellow; the cheeks and forehead white; the

bell, and may be heard at the distance of half a league.  
*Hist. Gén. des Voyages*, tom. xiv. p. 299.

\* The female has no caruncle.

W.

52 THE CARUNCULATED CHATTERER.

feathers of the throat grey, edged with olive; those of the breast and of the anterior part of the belly grey, edged with olive and tipped with yellow, and the coverts of the lower surface of the tail lemon-yellow; the inferior coverts of the wings white, edged with the same yellow.

The male and female are nearly of the same size. Total length twelve inches; length of the bill eighteen lines; its breadth at its base seven lines: length of the tail three inches nine lines, consisting of twelve equal quills, and projecting twenty-one lines beyond the wings.

## THE VARIEGATED CHATTERER\*.

THE head is deep brown; the quills of the wings blackish; their small coverts black; the great coverts blackish, with some mixture of brownish-green; all the rest of the plumage is cinereous, mixed with blackish, chiefly on the back, and with greenish on the rump and tail. The bill is broad at the base, as in the cotingas; its tongue is short; its nostrils uncovered; its iris blueish-black; its bill black; its legs blackish. It has several black fleshy appendices under the neck, nearly of a lance-shape, which marks a slight affinity to the preceding, at the same time that it discriminates it from all the other cotingas.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

AMPELIS VARIEGATA. A. cinerea, nigricante virescente-que variegata, capite obscure fusco, remigibus nigricantibus, sub gula carunculis duabus carnosiss elongatis nigris.  
—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 367. No. 10.

AMPELIS VARIEGATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i, p. 841.

COTINGA NÆVIA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 354. 9.

L'AVERANO.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 321.

GUIRA-PUNGA.—*Raii Syn.* p. 166. 4.—*Will.* p. 147. t. 38.  
—*Id. (Angl.)* p. 199.

VARIEGATED CHATTERER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 99, 9.

### HABITAT

in Brasilia,

W.

The variegated cotinga is as large as a pigeon; the length of its bill, which is an inch, equals the greatest breadth; its legs are twelve or thirteen lines; its tail is three inches, and is almost wholly beyond the reach of the wings.

The female is rather smaller than the male, and has not the fleshy appendices under the neck; it resembles the fieldfare in shape and size; its plumage is a mixture of blackish, of brown, and light green; but these colours are distributed so, that the brown predominates on the back, and the light-green on the throat, the breast, and the under part of the body.

These birds grow plump and juicy. The male has a very strong voice, and inflected in two different ways; sometimes it resembles the noise occasioned by striking a cutting instrument against a wedge of iron (*kock, kick*); and sometimes it is like the jarring of a bell that is cracked (*kur, kur, kur*). It is heard in no part of the year but during the six weeks of the middle of summer; that is, in the southern hemisphere, in December and January; and hence the Portuguese name *Ave de Verano*, i. e. *Bird of Summer*. It is remarked that its breast is marked exteriorly with a furrow which runs through its whole length; and also that its wind-pipe is very wide, which perhaps contributes to the strength of its voice.

## THE GUIRAROU \*.

If the beauty of plumage formed the characteristic feature of the cotingas, this bird, and that of the preceding article, would be regarded as degenerate branches of the original stock. The *Guirarou* has nothing remarkable either in its colours, or in their distribution, if we except a black bar below the eyes, and the tint of the iris, which is sapphire: a uniform light-grey is spread over the head, the neck, the breast, and all the under part of the body; the thighs, and the upper part of the body, cinereous; the quills, and coverts of the wings,

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

LANIUS NENGETA. L. cauda cuneiformi apice alba, corpore cinereo subtus albido.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 68. No. 7.

LANIUS NENGETA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 298.

COTINGA CINEREA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 353. 8.

GUIRARU NHEENGETA.—*Raii Syn.* p. 166. 5.—*Will.* p. 170. *Id. (Angl.)* p. 235.

LE GUIRAROU.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 324.

GREY PYE OF BRASIL.—*Edw.* t. 318.

GREY SHRIKE. *Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 240. A.—*Lath. Syn.* i. p. 183. 36.

## HABITAT

in Europæ borealis et Americæ aquosis; gregarius.—9 pollices longus. W.

blackish; the quills of the tail black, tipped with white, and its superior coverts white; lastly, the bill and legs are black.

The flat shape, and the shortness of the bill, the loudness of its voice, which is somewhat like that of the blackbird, but shriller, and its haunting the margin of water, are the chief circumstances in which the *Guirarou* resembles the cotingas; its size is also nearly the same, and it inhabits the same climates: yet Willughby has referred it to the white-ears; and other excellent ornithologists have reckoned it a fly-catcher. For my own part I shall not venture to assign its genus; I shall retain the name which it bears in its native climate, and wait for fuller observations made on several living subjects, which will point out its proper arrangement. The *Guirarous* are very common in the interior parts of Guiana, but are not found at all in Cayenne; they ramble little; many occur generally in the same district; they perch generally on the lowest branches of certain large trees, where they pick up seeds and insects, on which they subsist. From time to time, they cry all at once, allowing an interval between each sound; this cry, though harsh in itself, is cheering music to travellers who have lost their way in immense forests of Guiana, for it directs them to the banks of a river.

The subject observed by M. de Manoncour was nine inches and a half total length; its

bill twelve lines long, seven broad, five thick at the base, and encircled with hairs; the tail was square, four inches long, and exceeded the wings by two inches and a half; the *tarsus* was an inch, and so was the bill\*.

\* I owe these details to M. de Manoncour,



## VARIETY of the GUIRAROU\*.

I KNOW of one only; it is what we have called the *Grey Cotinga*; and Daubenton and myself suspect that it is a variety of age, because it is smaller, its total length being seven inches and a half, and its tail rather shorter, the wings reaching to the middle, and all the other differences result from defect. It has neither the black bar under the eyes, nor the white-bordered tail, nor the white superior coverts; the quills of the wings are edged with white, but they are not so blackish; and those of the tail not so black as in the *Guirarou*.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

AMPELIS CINEREA. *A. cinereo-grisea, subtus grisescens, rostro pedibusque rubris.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 367. No. 11.

LANIUS NENGETA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 298. 7. β.

VARIE'TE' DU GUIRAROU.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 327.

LE COTINGA GRIS de CAYENNE.—*Pl. Enl.* 699.

GREY SHRIKE.—*Lath. Syn.* i. p. 184. 36. A.

### HABITAT

in Cayana.—8 pollices longa.

W.

## THE ANTERS

IN the low, swampy, thin-settled lands of South America, the swarms of insects and loathsome reptiles seem to predominate over all the rest of the animal creation. In Guiana and Brazil† the ants are so astonishingly multi-

\* TURDUS.

### CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* rectiusculum; apice deflexo, emarginato.

*Nares* ovatae, nudae, vel membranula semitectae.

*Faux* ciliata.

*Lingua* lacero-marginata.

† Les Fourmiliers.—*Buff.*

‡ This is also the case in many other parts of America. Piso relates, that in Brazil, and even in the wet grounds of Peru, the quantity of ants is so enormous, that they devour all the seeds which are committed to the earth; and though fire and water be employed to extirpate them, the attempts have hitherto failed of success. He adds, that if were much to be wished that Nature had ordained in those countries many species of animals like the ant-eaters (*Myrmecophagæ*, Linn.), which might bore into the hillocks, and extract these insects with their long tongue. Some of the ants are not larger than those of Europe; others are twice or thrice as large. They raise hills as large as hay-stacks; and their number is so vast, that they make tracks several feet broad in the fields, and in the woods, and often through an extent of many

plied, that their hills are some fathoms wide, and several feet in height, and proportionally populous as those of Europe, of which the largest are only two or three feet in diameter; so that they may be computed to contain two or three hundred times the number of ants. Yet they exceed still more in number; and in the wildernesses of Guiana they are an hundred times more frequent than in any part of the ancient continent. But (such is the system of Nature!) every creature is the destined prey of another; and generation and destruction are ever conjoined. We have in the former work given an account of the *Tamanoir*, of the *Tamandua*, and of the other quadrupeds which feed upon ants; we are now to write the history of a kind of birds which live also upon these insects. We were unacquainted with the existence of the Anters till M. de Manoncour presented the specimens to the king's cabinet.

The Anters are natives of Guiana, and are analogous to none of the European birds; but in the shape of their body, of their bill, of their feet, and of their tails, they bear a great resemblance to the short-tailed thrushes (*Breves*), which our nomenclators have improperly confounded with the blackbirds: but

leagues.—Fernandez says also that these ants are larger, and pretty much like our winged-ants, and that their hills are of an incredible height and width.

as the short-tailed thrushes inhabit the Philippines, the Moluccas, the island of Ceylon, Bengal, and Madagascar. it is more than probable that they are not of the same race with the Anters of America. These appear indeed to constitute a new genus, for which we are wholly indebted to M. de Manoncour, whom I have so often cited for his extensive knowledge of foreign birds: he has presented above an hundred and sixty different species to the Royal cabinet; and has also been so obliging as to communicate to me all the observations which he made in his voyages to Senegal and America. I have on many occasions availed myself of this information; and in particular I have formed entirely from it the history of the Anters.

In French Guiana, and indeed in all countries where natural history is little known, names are applied to animals from the slightest analogies. This has been the case with the Anters: they were observed to perch seldom, and run like partridges; but as they were inferior to these birds in size, they were distinguished at Cayenne by the appellation of *Little Partridges*.

But these birds are neither partridges, nor blackbirds, nor short-tailed thrushes; only they resemble the last in their chief external characters. Their legs are long; their tail and wings short; the nail of the hind-toe more hooked, and longer than those of the fore-toes;

the bill straight and lengthened; the upper mandible scalloped at its extremity, which bends at the junction of the lower mandible, and projects about a line beyond it; but their tongue is short, and beset at the tip with small cartilaginous and fleshy threads. Their colours are also very different; and it is very probable that their instincts are dissimilar, since they inhabit widely distant climates. When we described the short-tailed thrushes, we were unable to give any account of their natural habits, since no travellers had taken notice of them, and therefore we cannot draw any comparison with those of the American Anters.

In general the Anters keep in flocks, and feed upon small insects, and chiefly ants, which are for the most part similar to those of Europe. They are almost always found upon the ant-hills, which in the interior tracts of Guiana, are more than twenty feet in diameter, and whose insect nations retard the extension of cultivation, and even consume the provisions of life.

There are several species of Anters, which, though very different in appearance, often associate together; the large ones and the small, the long-tailed and the short-tailed, are found on the same spot. Indeed, if we except the principal kind, which are very few, it is rare to find in the rest two subjects perfectly alike; and we may suppose that this diversity arises from the intermixture of the small ones: so

that we must regard them as mere varieties, and not distinct species.

In all these birds, the wings and tail are very short, and therefore ill calculated for flying; accordingly they only trip along the ground, and hop among the low branches; and though lively and active, they never shoot through the air.

The voice of the Anters is various in the different species, and in some it is very singular.

As insects are the chief food of these birds, they seek the solitary tracts where those are not molested by the intrusion of man, and swarm in abundance. They live in the thickest and the remotest forests, and never visit the savannas, the cleared grounds, and still less the neighbourhood of plantations. They employ dry herbs carelessly interwoven in the construction of their nests, which are hemispherical, and two, three, or four inches in diameter, and suspend them by the two sides on the bushes, two or three feet from the ground. They lay three or four eggs, which are almost round.

The flesh of most of these birds is unpalatable food, and has an oily rank taste; and when opened, the digested mass of ants, and of other insects they swallow, exhales a putrid offensive smell.

## THE KING OF THE ANTERS\*.

*First Species.*

THIS is the largest and the most unfrequent of all the birds of this genus. It is never seen in flocks, and seldom in pairs; and as it is generally alone among the others, and is larger than them, it is called *The King of the Anters*. It is the more entitled to that appellation, as it affects an uncommon distance to other birds, and even to those of its own kind. If so excellent an observer as M. de Manoncour had not communicated the details of its manner of living, to discover it to be an Anter; from the mere inspection, would have been almost impossible; for its bill is thicker, and differently shaped from that of all the others. This bird is generally on the

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

TURDUS GRALLARIUS. T. fusco-nebulosus, subtus rufescens, maxillæ inferioris striga macula pectoris crissoque albis, nucha plumbea.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 361. No. 129.

TURDUS REX.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 828.

LE ROI DES FOURMILIERS.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 341.  
—*Pl. Enl.* 702.

KING THRUSH.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 89. 122.

## HABITAT

in Guiana, Brasilia.

W.

ground, and is far from being so lively as the rest, who hop around it. It frequents the same spots, and feeds also upon insects, especially ants. The female, as in all the other species of this genus, is larger than the male.

Its length from the point of the bill to the end of the tail is seven inches and a half; its bill is brown, somewhat hooked, fourteen lines long, and five lines thick at the base, which is beset with small whiskers; the wings extend the whole length of the tail, which is only fourteen lines; the legs are brown, and two inches long.

The under side of the body is variegated with brown rufous, blackish, and white; the rufous brown is the predominant colour as far as the belly, where it grows dilute, and the whitish prevails. Two white bars descend from the corners of the bill along with the dusky shade of the throat and neck; on the breast is a white spot nearly triangular. The upper side of the body is brown rufous, shaded with black and white, except on the rump and tail, where the colour is uniform.—The size and the tints are subject to vary in different specimens, and we have only described here the more usual appearances.



## THE AZURIN.

### *Second Species.*

WE have described this bird after the blackbirds, and have nothing to add to the former account. We remarked that it was undoubtedly not a blackbird ; and from its external appearance it ought to be ranged among the anters. We are unacquainted with its economy. It is rare in Guiana, but was sent however from thence to M. Mauduit.





THE ALARUM THRUSH.

## THE GREAT BELFRY

*Third Species.*

We apply the epithet of *Great* only to distinguish it from another smaller species; for its total length exceeds not six inches and a half; its tail is sixteen lines, and projects six lines beyond the wings; its bill is eleven lines, black above and white below, and three lines and a half broad at the base; the legs are eighteen lines long, and, as well as the toes, are of a light lead-colour.

The tints vary in almost each individual, and the dimensions are also variable†;—we have stated the average.

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

TURDUS TINNIENS. T. fuscus, subus albus, pectore nigricante nebuloso.—*Lath. Ind. O. s. l.* p. 360. No. 125.

TURDUS TINNIENS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 827.

LE GRAND BEFROI.—*Buff. Pl. Ent.* 706. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 345. pl. 22. f. 1.

ALARUM THRUSH.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 86. 118.

## HABITAT

in Cayana.—6½ pollices longa.

W.

† In some individuals, the upper mandible, though scalloped and a little hooked, exceeds not the under.

In this species the females are much larger than the males, and still more disproportioned than in the first species: in this respect the anters resemble the birds of prey. ✓

What most remarkably distinguishes this bird, which we have named *Belfry*, is, the singular sound that it makes in the evenings and mornings: this resembles the din of an alarum-bell. Its voice is so strong, that it can be heard at a great distance, and one would hardly suppose it emitted by so small a bird. The succession of sounds, which is as rapid as the quick strokes of a bell, continues about an hour. It appears to be a sort of call similar to that of the partridges, only it is heard at all seasons, and every day, at the rising of the sun, and before his setting: however, as the period of love is not fixed in those hot climates, the partridges, as well as the anters, have their call in every season indiscriminately.

The king of the anters and the belfry are the only birds of the genus that are palatable food.

## THE SMALL BELFRY\*.

### VARIETY.

Its length five inches and a half; the upper part of the body is olive, which grows more dilute on the rump; the tail, of which the quills are brown, as well as those of the wings, exceeds these by ten lines; the under part of the throat is white, and the feathers below become grey, and spotted with rusty-brown as far as the belly, which is entirely rusty-brown.

From this description it is easy to perceive the striking resemblance of colours between this bird and the great belfry, and the figure is precisely the same.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**TURDUS LINEATUS.** T. fusco-olivaceus, subtus albus fusco punctatus, lateribus colli albo-maculatis, tectricibus alarum maculis rufis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 361. No. 126.

**TURDUS LINEATUS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 823.

**LE PETIT BELFROI.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 348.

**LE FOURMILIER GRIVELE' de CAYENNE.**—*Pl. Enl.* 823. f. 1.

**SPECKLED THRUSH.**—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 87. 119.

### HABITAT.

in Cayana.— $5\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa.

W

## THE PALIKOUR, or 'ANTER', properly so called.

### *Fourth Species.*

It is near six inches long; its body not so thick as that of the Little Belfry, and its bill longer than in that species; its iris reddish, and its eyes encircled by a skin of sky-blue; the legs and the lower mandible of the same colour.

The throat, the fore part of the neck, and the top of the breast, are covered with a cravat of black, with a black and white border, which extends behind the neck and forms a half-collar; the rest of the under part of the body is cinereous.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**TURDUS FORMICIVORUS.** T. rufo-fuscus, subtus albidus, macula dorsali collo inferiore pectoreque nigris, tectricibus alarum flavo maculatis, cauda rufa.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 361. No. 127.

**TURDUS FORMICIVORUS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 828.

**LE PALIKOUR, ou FOURMILIER.**—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 700. f. 1.  
—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 350.

**ANT THRUSH.**—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 87. 120.

### HABITAT

cum præcedentibus.

W.

The birds of this species are very lively, but fly not more than the others in open air; they climb among the bushes like magpies, expanding the feathers of their tail.

They make a sort of quavering, interrupted by a feeble cry, which is abrupt and shrill.

Their eggs are brown, and nearly as large as those of sparrows; the great end is sprinkled with spots of a deep brown; the nest is thicker and closer interwoven than those of the other Anters, and is covered externally with more than one layer of moss.



## THE COLMA\*.

THE Colma may likewise be considered as a variety of the preceding, or as a closely-related species; all the plumage of its body is brown; below it is brown-grey, and on the belly cinereous; only on the lower part of the head, behind the neck, there is a sort of rufous half-collar, and the throat is white, dotted with brown-grey. We have formed its name *Colma*, from this last character. In some subjects the rufous half-collar is wanting.

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

TURDUS COLMA. T. rufo-fuscus, subtus cinereus, lunula nuchæ rufa, jugulo albo nigroque vario, macula narium gulaque albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 360. No. 124.

TURDUS COLMA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 827.

LE COLMA.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 703. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 354.

RUFous-NAPED THRUSH.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 85. 117.

## HABITAT

in Cayana.—7 pollices longus.

A. LE TETEMA.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 355.—*Pl. Enl.* 821.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 86.

Discrepat nucha cervicæque rufis, corpore supra subtusque saturate fusco.—Au femina?—*Lath.* W.

## THE TÊTE'MA.

THIS is a native of Cayenne, and seems to resemble much the preceding, not only in size, which is the same, and in shape, which is nearly similar, but in the disposition of the colours, which are almost the same on all the upper part of the body. The greatest difference occurs on the throat, the breast, and the belly, which are blackish-brown: whereas in the Colma, the origin of the neck and throat are white, variegated with small brown spots, and the breast and belly are ash-grey, which would induce us to suppose that the differences are only sexual. In that case I should reckon the Tétéma as the male, and the Colma as the female, because its colours are generally more dilute.

## THE CRESTED ANTER\*.

*Fifth Species.*

THE average length of this bird is nearly six inches: the upper part of the head is decorated with long black feathers, which it can erect at pleasure like a crest; the iris is black, the under part of the throat is covered with black and white feathers; the breast and the under part of the neck are black;—all the rest of the body is ash-grey.

The tail is two inches four lines in length, and consists of twelve tapered quills†, edged and tipped with white, and exceeds the wings an inch, whose superior coverts are tipped with white,

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**TURDUS CIRRHATUS.** T. cristatus griseo-cinereus, pileo collo inferiore pectoreque nigris, gula albo varia, tectricibus alarum apice, rectricibus margine et apice albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 359. No. 120.

**TURDUS CIRRHATUS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 826.

**LE FOURMILIER HUPPE.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 381.

**BLACK-CRESTED THRUSH.**—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 83. 113.

## HABITAT

in Cayana.—6 pollices longus.

W.

† In all the species of the Anters, the tail is more or less tapered; those which have it larger than the rest, have it also thinner, and the quills weaker.

and, in some subjects, they are of the general colour of the body, or ash-grey.

The female has also a crest, or rather the same long feathers on the head, but they are rufous, and its plumage differs from that of the male in nothing except a slight shade of rusty upon the grey.

These birds have a cluck like that of a pullet; they lay three eggs \*, and breed several times annually.

\* M. de Manoncour found in the month of December several young of this species ready to fly. He tried in vain to rear some of them; for they all died in the space of four days, though they ate very heartily crumbs of bread.

## THE WHITE-EARED ANTER\*.

*Sixth Species.*

It is four inches nine lines in length; the upper part of the head is brown, and the lower sides of the fore part of the head and throat are black: a small bar of shining white stretches from the posterior angle of the eye to below the head, where the feathers are broader and longer than those of the head.

There is nothing remarkable in the rest of the plumage: the colour of the upper part of the body is an unpleasant mixture of olive and

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

TURDUS AURITUS. 'T. rufo-olivaceus fusco varius, abdomine albo, gula juguloque nigris, vertice fasciaque pectorali rufo fuscis, vitta aurium argentea.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 369. No. 123.

TURDUS AURITUS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 827.

PIPIRA LEUCOTIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 1003.

LE FOURMILIER à OREILLES BLANCHES.—*Buff. Pl. Ent.* 822.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 359. pl. 122. f. 2.

WHITE-EARED MANAKIN.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 527. 13.

————— THRUSH.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 84. 116.

## HABITAT

in Cayana.

W.

rusty. The superior part of the under sides of the body is rufous, and the rest grey\*.

The tail is fifteen lines in length; the wings extend its whole length; the legs are brown: the habits of the bird are the same as those of the preceding kinds.

\* The female differs from the male in having the top of the head and base of the cheeks reddish, and the throat white.

W.

## THE CHIMER\*.

*Seventh Species.*

THE total length of this bird is four inches and a half, and its tail projects nine lines beyond the wings.

Besides the habits common to the anters, the Chimer has others peculiar to itself: it haunts the grounds where the ants abound, but does not intermingle with the rest; it generally forms small separate parties of four or six: they hop about and utter a very singular cry, exactly like the chime of three different-toned bells: their voice is sonorous, considering the smallness of their size. We might suppose that they sing their parts, though it is likely that each

## \* CHAÆACTER SPECIFICUS.

**TURDUS CAMPANELLA**, T. fuscus, subtus uropygioque rufo-fulvus, gula alba, pileo genisque albis nigro maculatis, superciliis strigaeque pone oculos nigris.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 359. No. 121.

**TURDUS TINTINNABULATUS**.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 826.

**LE CARILLONEUR**.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 700. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 361.

**CHIMING THRUSH**.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 83. 114.

## HABITAT

in Cayanae et Guianae sylvis.—4 pollices longus.

W.

sounds successively the three notes; but we are not certain, as no person has ever been at the trouble to domesticate them. Their voice is not so loud as that of the great belfry, which is indeed equal to that of a bell of considerable size; and the Chimers are not distinctly audible farther than fifty paces, while the belfry may be heard at the distance of half a league. These birds continue their chiming without intermission for whole hours.

The species is very rare, and found only in the still forests in the heart of Guiana.



## THE BAMBLA

### *Eighth Species.*

WE have given it this name, because there is a white transverse bar on each wing (*bande-blanche*). The habits of the bird are unknown; but from its resemblance to the other anters, I should infer that it belongs to the same genus, though still a distinct species.

Besides\* these eight species of anters, we have seen three others which were brought from Cayenne, but without the least account of their natural habits.

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**TURDUS BAMBLA.** *T. nebulosus*, supra rufo-fuscus, subtus cinerascens, alis nigris fascia alba, cauda nigricante brevi.  
—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 360. No. 122.

**TURDUS BAMBLA.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 827.

**LE BAMBLA.**—*Buff. Pl. Zool.* 703. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 364.

**BLACK-WINGED THRUSH.**—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 84. 115.

#### HABITAT

in Cayana.

W.

## THE ARADA\*.

THIS was called, by M. de Manoncour, the *Musician of Cayenne* ; I rather choose to retain the name of *Arada*, which it receives in its native country.

It is not exactly an anter ; but we have placed it after these, because it has the same external characters, though it differs in its habits. It perches upon trees, and never alights on the ground, except to pick up ants and other insects, upon which it feeds. It is distinguished from them by a remarkable property ; for all the anters utter harsh cries without any molestation, while the Arada has the most charming warble. It commences often with

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**TURDUS ARADA.** T. rufo-fusca nigricante transversim striatus, subtus albidus, sub oculis macula nigra albo punctata, genis colloque inferiore rufo fulvis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 358. No. 116.

**TURDUS CANTANS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 825.

**L'ARADA.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 366. pl. 128. fig. 1.

**LE MUSICIEN de CAYENNE.**—*Pl. Enl.* 706. f. 2.

**MUSICIAN THRUSH.**—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 80. 109.

### HABITAT

in Cayana ; parva species.—4 pollices tantum longus. W.

the seven notes of the octave, and then whistles different soft varied airs, which are lower than those of the nightingale, and more like the breathing of a sweet-toned flute; and it is said to excel even that celebrated chorister of the grove in delicate tender melody. It has also a sort of whistle, resembling that by which a person calls upon another: travellers frequently mistake this sound, and, by following it, they are led more astray; for as they approach, the bird continually recedes, and whistles at intervals.

The Arada avoids settled spots; it lives alone in the depth of the vast forests, and the softness of its melody seems in some measure to relieve the gloomy stillness around. It is one of the very few birds in the new world which nature has distinguished by the charms of its song. But the species is not numerous; and the traveller may frequently pursue his pathless journey without meeting a single Arada to sooth his sympathetic gloom.

The colours of its plumage correspond not with the richness of its song; they are dull and obscure.—The total length is four inches, and the tail is radiated transversely with rufous, brown, and blackish;—it exceeds the wings by seven lines.

To the Arada we may refer a bird which Mauduit showed to us: it resembles that in the length and shape of its bill, the form of its tail, the length of its legs, in having some white

feathers mixed with the brown ones on the sides of the neck; the size is nearly equal, and the shape similar; but the tip of its bill is more hooked, its throat is white, with a half-collar of black below, and its plumage is uniform, and not striped with brown lines, as in the Arada, whose throat and under part of its neck are red. We may presume, therefore, that this bird is either a distinct variety of the Arada, or a contiguous species, since it inhabits Cayenne; though, being unacquainted with its habits, we shall not at present presume to decide the matter.

## THE NIGHTINGALE •ANTERS\*.

IN their external figure these birds are intermediate between the Anters and the Nightingales: their bill and feet are like those of the Anters, and their long tail resembles that of the Nightingales. They live in flocks in the vast forests of Guiana; they run upon the ground, and hop among the low branches, but fly not in open air; they feed upon ants and other small insects; they are very nimble, and when they frisk about, they make a sort of quavering, succeeded by a feeble shrill cry, which they repeat several times when they call upon each other.

We know only two species.

\* Les Fourmiliers Rossignols.—*Buff.*

## THE CORAYA\*.

*First Species.*

WE have given it this name, because its tail is radiated transversely with blackish (*queue-ayée*). The length is five inches and a half, from the point of the bill to the end of the tail; the throat and the fore-part of the neck are white; the breast is less white, and receives a cinereous shade; there is a little rusty under the belly and on the thighs; the head is black, and the upper part of the body rufous-brown; the tail is tapered, and two inches long, and extends at least eighteen lines beyond the wings; the hind nail is, as in the anters, the longest and strongest of all.

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

TURDUS CORAYA. T. rufo-fuscus, pileo lateribusque capitis et colli nigris, gula jugulo strigisque sub oculis albis, cauda grisea fasciis nigris.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 358. No. 117.

TURDUS CORAYA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 825.

THE CORAYA.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 701. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 373.

BARRED-TAIL THRUSH.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 81. 110.

Magnitudo Lusciniæ.—5½ pollices longa.

W.

## THE ALAPI\*.

*Second Species.*

It is rather larger than the preceding, being six inches long; its throat, the fore-part of its neck and breast are black; the rest of the under part of the body cinereous; an olive-brown is spread over the upper part of the head, neck, and back; the rest of the upper part of the body is deeper cinereous than that of the belly: there is a white spot on the middle of the back; the tail is blackish and somewhat tapered, projecting one inch and a half beyond the wings, the quills of which are brown above and below, and the superior coverts are of a very deep brown, dotted with white, whence its name *Alapi* (*ailes Piquetées*).

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

TURDUS ALAPI. T. fuscus, subtus cinereus, collo inferiore pectoreque nigris, tectricibus alarum albo punctatis, dorso macula alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 359. No. 119.

TURDUS ALAPI.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 826.

L'ALAPI de CAYENNE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 701. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* xlix. p. 374.

WHITE BACKED THRUSH.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 82. 112.

## HABITAT

in Guianæ sylvis.—6 pollices longa.

W.

The female has not the white spot on the back ; its throat is white, and the rest of the under part of the body rusty, with ash-grey feathers on the sides of the lower belly, and on what form the inferior coverts of the tail : the points of the coverts of the wings are also rusty, and that of the upper part of the body is not so deep as in the male.

These shades, and even the colours themselves, vary in different subjects, as we have had occasion to observe with regard to the anters.



## THE AGAMI\*†.

To avoid confusion, we shall restore to this bird the name of *Agami*, which it has ever re-

## \* PSOPHIA.

## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* cylindrico-conicum, convexum, mandibula superiore longiore.

*Nares* ovatae, patulae.

*Lingua* cartilaginea, plana, apice laciniata.

*Femora* supra genua depudata.

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**PSOPHIA CREPITANS.** P. nigra, dorso griseo, pectore caeruleo-viridi splendente, orbitis nudis rubris.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 657. No. 1.

**PSOPHIA CREPITANS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 720.

**PHASIANUS ANTILLARUM.**—*Bris.* i. p. 269. 2.—*Rain. Syn.* p. 56. 2. sect. 2.

**AGAMI.**—*Bug. Pl. Enl.* 169.—*Bug. par. Scen.* xlix. p. 5, pl. 129. f. 1.

**GOLD-BREASTED TRUMPETER.**—*Lath. Syn.* IV. p. 798, t. 68.



THE GOLD-BREASTED TRUMPETER.



## THE AGAMI.

ceived in its native region. In a preceding part of the present work, we were deceived by the account of Father Dutertre, and have mentioned it by the appellation of *Caracara*; but that term was bestowed by Marcgrave upon a bird of prey totally different from the *Agami*.

Naturalists have entertained the most opposite opinions with regard to this bird. Dutertre supposes it to be a pheasant; Barrère reckons it a wild hen; Pallas terms it a crane; and Adanson seems to insinuate that it is a large aquatic bird of the genus of the lapwing, because its knees are prominent, and its hind-toe is placed a little higher than the three fore-toes, and because it appears the intermediate kind between the *Jacana* and the *Kamicni*.

But the *Agami* is quite a distinct race. It resembles indeed the aquatic birds in the character which Adanson has properly remarked, and also the greenish colour of the legs; but its nature is entirely different. It inhabits the arid mountains, and the upland forests; and never visits the fens, or the margins of water.—We have here another example of the errors into which artificial systems lead.

Nor is it a pheasant or curasso; for not only are its legs and thighs different, but its toes and nails are much shorter. Still more is it widely separated from the common hen; and it cannot be ranged with the cranes, since its bill, its neck, and its legs, are much shorter than in the aquatic birds.

The Agami is twenty-two inches long; its bill, which is exactly like that of the gallinaeous tribe, is twenty-one lines; its tail is very short, not exceeding three inches and one-fourth, and is concealed by the superior coverts, and does not project beyond the wings; its legs are five inches high, and completely covered with small scales, as in the other gallinaceous birds, and these scales reach two inches above the knees, which are not feathered.

The whole of its head, its throat, and the upper half of its neck, both above and below, are covered with a short down, which is very close, and feels very soft; the fore-part of the lower surface of the neck, and the breast, are covered with a beautiful gorget four inches broad, whose brilliant colours vary between green, gold-green, blue, and violet; the upper part of its back, and the contiguous portion of its neck, are black; the plumage changes on the hind-part of the back into a tawny-rufous; but all the under side of the body is black; and also the wings and the tail; only the great feathers which extend on the rump and the tail, are light ash-coloured; the legs are greenish.

The nomenclators\* have also confounded the Agami with the *Macucagua* of Marcgrave, which is the great *Tinamou*, and of which we shall treat, in the following article, under the

\* Barrère, Brisson, Vosmaër, &c

name of *Magua*. Adanson is the first who detected this error.

Pallas \* and Vosmaër † have accurately ascer-

\* “ The larynx, which without the breast is of the thickness of a swan’s quill, and almost bony, grows much slenderer at its entrance into the breast, looser, and cartilaginous, whence proceed two semi-cylindrical canals formed of membranes, and capable of extension.

“ The air-bag on the right side descends to the pelvis, and within the breast it is divided into three or four cells by transverse membranous diaphragms. That on the left side is much narrower, and terminates in the loins.”—*Miscel. Zoolog.* p. 71.

† The most characteristic and remarkable property of these birds consists in the wonderful noise which they often make, either of themselves, or when urged by the keepers of the *menagerie*. I do not wonder that hitherto they have been supposed to form this through the anus. It cost me no little trouble to convince myself of the contrary. To succeed, one must be on the ground, and with a bit of bread entice the bird to come near; then make the noise, which the keepers can well imitate, and often dispose the Agami to repeat it. This equivocal noise is sometimes preceded by a savage cry, interrupted by a sound approaching that of *scherck, scherck*, to which succeeds the hollow singular noise in question, which resembles somewhat the moan of pigeons. In this way it utters five, six, or seven times, with precipitation, a hollow noise emitted from within its body, nearly as if one pronounced *tou, tou, tou, tou, tou, tou*, with the mouth shut, resting upon the last *tou* . . . a very long time, and terminating by sinking gradually with the same note. This sound also resembles much the lengthened doleful noise which the Dutch bakers make, by blowing a glass-trumpet, to inform their customers when the bread comes out of the oven. This sound, as I have already said, issues not from the anus; yet I am very confident, that it is formed by a slight opening

tained the singular power which this bird has of emitting a dull hollow sound, which was supposed to come from the anus \*, and have discovered that this is a mistaken notion. We shall only observe that in many birds, as well as in the Agami, the wind-pipe is bony at its opening, and becomes cartilaginous in its descent, and in

\* M. de la Condamine entertained this opinion.—*Voyage des Amazons*, p. 175.

of the bill, and by a sort of lungs peculiar to almost all birds, though of a different form. This is also the opinion of M. Pallas, who heard it often with me, and to whom I gave one of the dead birds for dissection." The doctor has communicated to me his observations with respect to the internal structure of the animal, for which I am much obliged to him. "The wind-pipe," says he, "before its entrance into the breast, is as thick as a large writing-pen, bony, and quite cylindrical. In the breast it becomes cartilaginous, and divides into two semi-circular canals, which pass through the lungs, the left one being very short, but the right one reaching the bottom of the belly, and parted by transverse membranes into three or four lobes."

These lungs therefore are undoubtedly the instrument of the various cries emitted by birds. The air, pressed by the impulsive action of the fibres, seeks to escape through the large branches of the fleshy lungs, and meets with an obstruction from the little elastic membranes, which produces pulsations, the origin of all sorts of sounds †. But what above all convinces us that this noise proceeds not from the anus, if a person observes attentively when the bird makes it, he will perceive the breast and belly to heave, and the bill to open somewhat.—*Vosmaër, Amsterdam, 1768.*

† *Mémoires de l'Académie des Sciences, année 1753*, p. 293.

general the cries of such birds are deep; but there are also many birds on the other hand whose wind-pipe is cartilaginous at its rise, and terminates bony in the breast, and these have commonly shrill notes.

The odd sort of noise which this bird makes, is probably owing to the extent of lungs, and the capacity of their membranous cell. But it is unnecessary to suppose with Vosmaër, that the Agami is obliged to open its bill a little in order to give passage to the sound; for any sudden motion in the bowels is communicated through the muscles and teguments to the external air, which conveys the impulse to the ear.\* We have often occasion to notice this circumstance; and it appears to be prejudice that the sounds produced by animals are always transmitted through the throat, or through the alimentary canal. Nor is this species of ventriloquism peculiar to the Agami: the Curassó, without opening its bill, makes a similar hollow sound, which is even more articulate and more powerful. Indeed the same property seems to obtain, though in a less degree, in many kinds of birds in which the lungs are proportionally larger than in the quadrupeds. The hoarse murmur which the turkey-cock makes before his gobble, the cooing which the pigeon effects without motion of the mouth, are of this nature; only in these the sound rises near the bottom of the throat; but in the curassó, and especially in the hocco, it has its origin deeper.



In regard to the manner in which the Agami lives in the domestic state, I shall quote the words of Vosmaër:—"When these birds are well kept, they are attentive to cleanliness, and often peck the feathers of the body and wings with their bill: if they frolic with each other, they perform all their movements by hopping, and violently flapping their wings. The change of food and of climate certainly cools here (in Holland) their natural ardour for propagation. Their ordinary subsistence is grain, such as buck-wheat, &c. but they also eat readily small fish, flesh, and bread. This fondness for fish, and the uncommon length of their legs, shew that they partake of the nature of the herons and cranes, and that they belong to the class of the aquatic birds." We must observe here that the fondness for fish is no proof, since poultry are as greedy of this sort of food as of any other. "What *Pistorius* relates," continues Vosmaër, "with respect to the gratitude of this bird, may put many to the blush. When tamed, it distinguishes its master and benefactor with marks of its affection. Having reared one, I had an opportunity of experiencing this myself: when I opened its cage in the morning, the kind animal hopped round me, expanding both his wings, and *trumpeting* (this is the term which we may employ to express the noise) from his bill, and behind, as if he wished me good morning. He shewed no less attention when I went out and returned again; no sooner did he

perceive me from a distance than he ran to meet me : and even when I happened to be in a boat, and set my foot on shore, he welcomed me with the same compliments, which he reserved for me alone, and never bestowed them upon others."

We shall subjoin a number of additional facts, which were communicated by M. de Manoncour.

In the state of nature the Agami inhabits the vast forests in the warm climates of America, and never visits the cleared grounds, still less the settled spots. It associates in numerous flocks, and prefers not the swamps and sides of lakes ; for it is often found on the mountains, and in hilly situations. It walks and runs rather than flies, since it never rises more than a few feet, and only to reach some short distance, or to gain some low branch. It feeds upon wild fruits, like the curassos, the marails, and other gallinaceous birds. When surprised in its haunts, it makes its escape by swiftness of feet, seldom using its wings, and at the same time emits a shrill cry like that of the turkey.

These birds scrape the earth at the roots of the large trees to form a bed for their eggs ; and employ no lining, and construct no nest. They lay many eggs, from ten to sixteen ; but the number is proportioned, as in all other birds, to the age of the female ; they are almost spherical, larger than hens' eggs, and tinged with light green. The young Agamis retain their down, or rather their first dishevelled feathers, much

longer than our chickens, or infant-partridges : these are sometimes near two inches long, and before a certain age they might pass for animals covered with silky hairs; which are close like fur, and feel soft ; the true feathers appear not till they have attained the fourth of their full growth.

The Agami is not only tamed easily, but becomes attached to its benefactor with all the fondness and fidelity of dogs ; and of this disposition it shows the most unequivocal proofs. When bred up in the house, it loads its master with caresses, and follows his motions ; and if it conceives a dislike to persons on account of their forbidding figure, their offensive smell, or of injuries received, it will pursue them sometimes to a considerable distance, biting their legs, and testifying every mark of displeasure. It obeys the voice of its master, and even answers to the call of all those to whom it bears no grudge. It is fond of caresses, and offers its head and neck to be stroked ; and, if once accustomed to these familiarities, it becomes troublesome, and will not be satisfied without continual fondling. It makes its appearance as often as its master sits down to table, and begins with driving out the dogs and cats, and taking possession of the room : for it is so obstinate and bold, that it never yields, and often, after a tough battle, can put a middle-sized dog to flight. It avoids the bites of its antagonist by rising in the air, and retaliates with violent

blows with its bill and nails, aimed chiefly at the eyes; and after it gains the superiority, it pursues the victory with the utmost rancour, and, if not parted, will destroy the fugitive. By its intercourse with man, its instincts became moulded like those of dogs; and we are assured the Agamis can be trained to tend a flock of sheep. It even shows a degree of jealousy of its rivals; for when at table it bites fiercely the naked legs of the negroes, and other domestics, who come near its master:

The flesh of these birds, especially when they are young, is not ill-flavoured, but is dry, and commonly hard. The rich brilliant part of the plumage which covers the breast, is separated from the rest, and prepared for the ornaments of dress.

M. de la Borde has also communicated the following particulars in regard to this bird: "The wild Agamis," says he, "are dispersed in the back country, and are no longer found in the neighbourhood of Cayenne. . . . They are very common in the remote unsettled tracts: . . . They are always found in the immense forests, in flocks from ten and twelve to forty. . . . They fly from the ground to the low trees, where they remain still, and in such situation the hunters often kill several without scaring away the rest. . . . Some persons imitate their hoarse murmur so exactly, as to decoy them to their feet. . . . When the hunters discover a flock of Agamis, they desist not till they have killed

several: these birds seldom or never fly, and their flesh is but ordinary, black, and always hard; however, that of the young ones is more palatable. . . . No bird is so easily tamed as this, and there are always many of them in the streets of Cayenne. . . . They even roam out of town, but return in due time to their master. . . . They allow one to come near them, and handle them at pleasure; they are afraid neither of dogs, nor of birds of prey; in the court-yard they assume the ascendancy over the poultry, and keep them in great subjection: they feed like the hens, the *marils*, and the *paraguas*; but, when very young, they prefer small worms and flesh to every thing else.

“Almost all these birds have a trick of following people through the streets and out of town, even persons that they had never seen before. It is difficult to get rid of them: if you enter a house, they will wait your return, and again join you, though often after an interval of three hours.” “I have sometimes,” adds M. de la Borde, “betaken myself to my heels, but they ran faster, and always got before me; and when I stopped, they stopped also. I know one which invariably follows all the strangers who enter its master’s house; accompanies them into the garden, takes as many turns as they do, and attends them back again\*.”

\* Note communicated by M. de la Borde, King’s physician at Cayenne, in 1776.

As the habits and economy of this bird were little known, I have thought proper to transcribe the different accounts which I have received. It appears that of all the feathered tribes, the Agama is the most attached to the society of man; and in this respect it is as eminently distinguished above them all, as the dog is above the other quadrupeds. The disposition of the Agama is the more remarkable, since it is the only bird that has a social turn; whereas several of the quadrupeds discover attachment to man, though inferior in degree to that of the dog. And is it not strange, that an animal, so peculiarly formed for society, has never been domesticated? Nothing can better shew the immense distance between the civilised man and the rude savage, than the dominion obtained over the lower creation. The former has made the dog, the horse, the ox, the camel, the elephant, the rein-deer, &c. subservient to his utility, or his pleasure: he has drawn together the hens, the geese, the turkeys, and the ducks, and has lodged the pigeons. The savage has overlooked advantages the most obvious and the most essential to his comfort. It is society that gives spring to activity; that awakens the dormant faculties; and that expands, informs, and enlivens the whole!

## THE TINAMOUS\*†.

THESE birds, which are peculiar to the warm parts of America, may be regarded as a part of the gallinaceous class; for they resemble the bustard and partridge, though they differ in several properties. But there are certain habits in animals which result from the nature of the climate, and from local circumstances, and which ought not to be deemed essential characters.—Thus many birds, such as partridges, which remain constantly on the ground in Europe, perch in America; and even the palmated aquatic fowls pass the day in the water, and return to lodge during the night among the trees. The dangers with which they are surrounded appear to drive them to such retreats. The immense swarms of insects

## \* TINAMUS.

## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

- Rostrum* longiusculum, obtusum; nares in medio rostri.  
*Rictus* ampla.  
*Latere* capitis subdenudata.  
*Cauda* breviuscula.  
*Pedes* tetradactyli, digito postico a terra elevato.

† This is the name given to these birds in Guiana.

and reptiles, engendered by the heat and the moisture of the climate, threaten every moment their destruction. If they ventured to repose upon the ground, the dense columns of ants would attack them in their slumber, and reduce them to skeletons. The quails are the only birds in those countries which rest upon the surface; and they often fall a prey to the voracity of the serpents. Nor is it improbable, that the quails have been introduced since the discovery of America, and that they have not yet acquired the habits suited to their new situation, or learned to guard against the assaults of their numerous foes.

We should have ranged the genus of the *Tinamous* after that of the Bustard; but these birds were, at that time, but imperfectly known; and we are indebted to M. de Manoncour for the principal facts relating to their history, and also for the specimens presented to the Royal Cabinet, from which we have made the descriptions.

The Spanish inhabitants of America\*, and the French settlers at Cayenne, have both termed these birds *Partridges*; and the appellation has been adopted by some nomenclators†, though altogether improper; for the *Tinamous* are distinguished by their long slender bill, blunt at the tip, black above, and whitish

\* Letter of M. Godin des Odonnals, to M. de la Condamine, 1773, p. 19. note first.

† Brisson.—Barrère.



below; their nostrils oblong, and placed near the middle of their bill; their hind-toe is very short, and does not rest upon the ground; their nails are very short, broad, and channelled beneath; their legs also differ from those of partridges, being covered behind, as in the poultry, with scales, their whole length, shaped like small shells; but the upper part projects and forms inequalities not observed on the legs of poultry. In all the Tinamous, the throat and craw are thinly strewed with straggling feathers: the quills of the tail are so short, that in some they are wholly concealed by the superior coverts.—Thus they are improperly named partridges, since they differ in so many essential characters.

But they differ also from the bustard, by several of their principal characters, and especially by having a fourth toe behind, which is wanting in the bustard. In short, we have judged it requisite to range them in a separate genus, under the name which they receive in their native country.

All the species of the Tinamous pass the night upon the trees, and sometimes perch during the day; but they always settle among the lowest branches, and never mount to the summits: and this circumstance seems to imply the probability that they are not actuated by original impulse, but directed by considerations of safety.

The Tinamous are, in general, excellent for

the table; their flesh is white, firm, close, and juicy, especially about the wings, and tastes like that of the red partridge. The thighs and rump have commonly a disagreeable bitterness, which is occasioned by the fruit of the Indian reed upon which they feed. The same bitter taste is observed in the ring-pigeons which eat these fruits. But when the Tinamous live upon other fruits, such as wild cherries, &c. their flesh is uniformly delicate, but still has none of the *fumet*. In the sultry humid climate of Cayenne, meat will not keep more than twenty-four hours from putrefaction, and no sort of game can be allowed time to mellow and acquire that delicious flavour which constitutes its excellence. These birds, like all those which have a craw, often swallow the fruits without bruising or even cracking them; they are particularly fond of the wild cherries, and also of the produce of the *common palm*, and even of that of the coffee-shrub, when they can find it. Nor do they cull their subsistence from the trees; they only collect the fruits which have dropped. They scrape the ground to form their nest, which is usually nothing but a single layer of dry herbs. They lay twice a year, and have numerous broods; which shews that these birds and the agamis are of the gallinaceous class, which is remarkably prolific. Like these, also, they fly heavily, and to short distances, but run swiftly on the ground: they form little flocks, and it is uncommon to find

them either single or in pairs ; they call each other in all seasons ; in the morning and evening, and sometimes, too, during the day : this call is a slow, quavering, plaintive whistle, which the fowlers imitate to bring them near ; for this game is the most common and the best which that country affords.

We shall add a remarkable circumstance with respect to these genus of birds, that, as in the anters, the female is larger than the male ; a property which in Europe is found only in the rapacious tribe. In the shape of the body, however, and in the distribution of the colours, the females are almost entirely like the males.





THE GREAT TINAMOU.

## ' THE GREAT TINAMOU \*.

### *First Species.*

THIS bird is as large as a pheasant, and, according to Marcgrave, it has twice as much flesh as a plump hen†. The throat and the

### CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

TINAMUS BRASILIENSIS. *T. fusco-olivacea fusco maculata, abdomine albido vario, tibiis postice scabris.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 633. No. 1.

TETRAO MAJOR.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 767.

PERDIX BRASILIENSIS.—*Bris. i.* p. 227. 4.

PERDIX MAJOR BRASILIENSIS.—*Bris. i.* p. 227. 5.

MAGUAGUA.—*Raii Syn.* p. 53. 9.—*Will.* p. 116. t. 26.—*Id.* (*Angl.*) p. 168.

JAMBU.—*Raii Syn.* p. 57. 4.—*Will.* p. 119.—*Id.* (*Angl.*) p. 167.

LE MAGOUA.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 36. pl. 129. f. 2.

LE TINAMOU de CAYENNE.—*Pl. Em.* 476.

GREAT PARTRIDGE.—*Descr. Serin.* ii. p. 188.

GREAT TINAMOU.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 724. 1.

### HABITAT.

in American cultivated sylvia. —18 pollices longus. W.

† This bird eats, according to that author, wild beans and the fruit of a tree called, in Brazil, *aracicu*.

lower part of the belly are white; the upper part of the head is deep rufous; the rest of the body is of a brown-grey variegated with white on the top of the belly, the sides, and the coverts of the thighs: there is a little greenish on the neck, the breast, the rise of the back, and the superior coverts of the wings and of the tail, on which some blackish transverse spots are observed, that are less numerous on the coverts of the tail; the brown-grey is deeper on the rest of the body, and variegated with black transverse spots, which are less frequent near the rump: there are also some small black spots on the lateral quills of the tail; the middle quills of the wings are variegated with rufous and brown - grey, and terminated by a rusty border; the great quills are cinereous, without any spots or border; the legs are blackish, and the eyes black, and a little behind them the ears are placed, as in the poultry. Piso remarks, that the internal structure of this bird is exactly like that of the hen.

The size varies in different subjects: the average measures are, total length fifteen inches, the bill twenty lines, the tail three inches and a half, the legs two inches and three-fourths; the tail projects an inch and two lines beyond the wings.

The call of the Great Tinamou is a hollow sound, which may be heard at a great distance, and is whistled precisely at six o'clock in the

evening, the time when the sun sets in that latitude. It is silent during the night, unless it be alarmed.

The female lays twelve or fifteen eggs, which are almost round, rather larger than hens' eggs, of a beautiful greenish-blue, and are excellent eating.



## THE CINEREOUS TINAMOU\*.

### *Second Species.*

The epithet *cinereous* will serve for a description of this bird; for that colour is uniform over the whole body, except a tint of rufous on the head and the top of the neck. It has the same shape as the other, only it is smaller. It is a new species communicated by M. de Manoncour. It is of all the Tinamous the least frequent in Cayenne.

Its length is a foot; its bill sixteen lines; its tail two inches and a half; and its legs the same.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**TINAMUS CINEREUS.** T. cinereo-fuscus, capite cerviceque rufescentibus.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 633. No. 2.

**TETRAO CINEREUS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 768.

**LE TINAMOU CENDRE.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 40.

**CINEREOUS TINAMOU.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 726. 2.

### HABITAT

cum præcedente.—16 pollices longus.

W.

## THE VARIEGATED TINAMOU\*.

### *Third Species.*

THIS species, which is the third in the order of size, differs from the first two by its variegated plumage. The Creoles of Cayenne call it the *Pintado Tinamou*; but this appellation is improper, for it bears no resemblance to the Pintado, and its striped plumage is not dotted. Its throat and the middle of its belly are white; its tail, its breast, and the top of its belly, rufous; its sides and its thighs striped obliquely with white, with brown, and with rufous; the upper part of its head, and the top of its neck, black; all the upper part of its body, the superior coverts of its tail and of its wings, and the middle quills of its wings, striped trans-

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

TINAMUS VARIEGATUS. T. rufo fusco nigricanteque fasciatus, subtus rufus, pileo nigro, gula abdomineque medio albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 634. No. 3.

TETRAO VARIEGATUS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 768.

LE TINAMOU VARIE'.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 828.—*Buff. par. Sonn.* l. p. 52.

VARIEGATED TINAMOU.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 726. 3. t. 65.

### HABITAT°

Guiana.—11 pollices longus.

W.

versely with black and olive-brown, deeper on the back, and lighter on its rump and on its flanks; the great quills of its wings are brown, and uniform without a spot; its legs are blackish. \

Its total length is eleven inches; its bill fifteen lines; its tail two inches, and exceeds the wings by six lines.

It is pretty common in Guiana, though not so numerous as the Great Tinamous, which occur indeed the most frequently in the woods, for none of these three species haunt the cleared ground. The female Variegated Tinamou lays ten or twelve eggs, which are rather smaller than those of the hen pheasant, and are uniformly tinged with a beautiful black.

## THE LITTLE TINAMOU

### *Fourth Species.*

SOUI is the name by which this bird is known in Guiana, and which was given by the natives of the country. It is the smallest of the genus, not exceeding eight or nine inches in length, and not being larger than a partridge. Its flesh is as delicate as that of the other kinds, but it lays only five or six eggs, and sometimes no more than three or four, which are rather larger than pigeons' eggs; they are almost spherical, and as white as those of hens. The Little Tinamous do not form their nest like the Great Tinamous, by scraping the ground; they build it with long narrow leaves on the lowest

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

TINAMUS SOUI. T. fusco-nebulosus, subtus rufus, gula alba varia, capite supra colloque postice nigris. — *Lath. Ind. Orn* ii. p. 634. No. 4.

TETRAO SOUI. — *Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 763.

LE SOUI, PETIT TINAMOU. — *Buff. Pl. Enl.* 829. — *Buff. par* *Sonn.* l. p. 44. pl. 130. f. 1.

LITTLE TINAMOU. — *Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 727. 4.

### HABITAT

in Guiana, Cayana. — 9 pollices longus.

W.

branches of shrubs: it is hemispherical, about six inches in diameter, and five inches high. Of all the four species, this is the only one which does not live constantly in the woods; it often frequents the young straggling trees and bushes, which shoot up in land that has been cultivated and abandoned; and sometimes it even visits dwellings.

Its throat is variegated with white and rufous; all the under part of its body and the coverts of its thighs are of a light rufous; the upper part of its head and of its neck are black; the lower part of its neck, its back, and all the under part of its body, are brown, radiated with dull blackish; its superior coverts and the middle quills of its wings are brown, edged with rufous; the great quills of its wings are brown, without any spots or borders; its tail projects ten lines beyond its wings, but is exceeded by its own coverts\*.

\* Sonnini thinks that the partridges mentioned by Ulloa, which he found in the province of Quito, may be referred to the Little Tinamou. W.

## THE TOCRO\*.

THE Tocro is somewhat larger than our grey partridge, and its plumage deeper: but, in other respects, it is exactly similar; in its figure, in the proportions of its body, in the shortness of its tail, and in the shape of its bill and legs. The natives of Guiana call it *Tocro*, a name which well expresses its cry.

These partridges of the New World have nearly the same habits as those of Europe; only they still continue in the forests, because they have not been accustomed to cleared grounds. They perch on the low branches of the bushes, but only to pass the night; which is to avoid the damp, and perhaps the swarms of insects. They lay commonly twelve or fifteen eggs, which are

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

PERDIX GUIANENSIS. P. rufo-fusca nigro maculata et varia, gula cinerea, per oculos vitta fulva, remigibus extus maculis rufis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 650. No. 21.

TETRAO GUIANENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 767.

LE TOCRO, ou PERDRIX de la GUIANE.—*Buff.* iv. p. 513. ?

GUIANA PARTRIDGE.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 776. 20.—*Bancr. Guian.* p. 177. ?

## HABITAT •

in Guiana, Cayana.—11 pollices longa.

W.

entirely white; the flesh of the young ones is excellent, but has no *fumet*. The old ones are also eaten, and are even more delicate than ours; but the rapid progress of putrefaction in those climates will not allow sufficient time for acquiring the proper flavour.

As our grey partridges do not intermix with our red partridges, it is highly probable that the brown partridges of America would breed with neither, and consequently are a separate species.

## , THE FLYCATCHERS

NATURE has assigned these a place after the humblest of the rapacious tribes. They are harmless and even useful ; they consume not fruits, but live upon flies, gnats, and other winged insects. The genus comprehends numerous species, which vary exceedingly in point of size, from that of the nightingale to that of the shrike. Some characters, however, are common to them all: their bill is compressed, broad at the base, and almost triangular, beset with bristles, and the tip bent into a little hook in many of the middle species, and more curved in all the large species ; the tail is of considerable length, and only half covered by the wings. Their bill is also scalloped near the point; a property which they share with the blackbird, the thrush, and some other birds.

### \* MUSCICAPA.

#### CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* subtrigonum, utrinque emarginatum, apice incurvo : vibrissæ patentes versus fauces.

*Digiti* ad imum fissi.



Their disposition is in general shy and solitary, and their notes are neither lively nor melodious. Subsisting in the region of air, they seldom leave the summits of the lofty mountains, and are rarely seen on the ground. Their habit of clinging to the branches would seem to have increased the growth of their hind-toe, which in most of the Flycatchers is longer than the fore-toe.

The sultry tropical countries, which teem with various insects, are the favourite abodes of these birds \*. Two species only are found in Europe ; but we reckon eight in Africa, and in the warm regions of Asia, and thirty in America, which are also the largest species ; and as in the New World the insect nations are the most numerous and the most formidable, so Nature has provided a stronger body to prey upon them.—We shall range them, according to their size, into three divisions : the first are smaller than that of the nightingale, and are the *Flycatchers* properly so called ; the second are somewhat larger, and may be termed *Moucherolles* ; the third are the *Tyrants*, which are

\* \* “ The Flycatchers are in general common birds in hot countries. The species are there more frequent and more numerous than in temperate countries ; and few occur in cold climates. They feed only upon insects. They are destructive creatures, which, in the hot and moist regions, Nature has opposed to the excessive fecundity of the insects.”—*Voyage à la Nouvelle Guinée, par M. Sonnerat.*

nearly as large, if not larger, than the wood-chat, or rufous shrike, and resemble in their shape and instinct the genus of the shrikes, which seems to connect the class of rapacious birds with the Flycatchers.

# THE SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

### First Species:

THIS species, being well known, will serve as a term of comparison.—It is five inches eight lines in length; its alar extent eight inches and a half; the wings, when closed, reach to the middle of its tail, which is two inches long; its bill is flat, broad at its base, and eight lines long, beset with bristles: its whole plumage consists of these three colours, grey, white, and

**CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.**

**MORCIONAPA GRISOLA.** *M. subfusus*, notus albicans, collo longitudinaliter maculato, crasse subsericeo. — *Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii, p. 467. No. 1.

MUSCICAPA GRISOLA, Gmel. Syst. p. 357. 1. t. 35. f. 3. — Raii Syn. p. 81. 7. — Id. (Angl.) p. 211.

STOPAROLA ALDR. ?—*Rail. Syst.* p. 77. *N. J.* 1877. 1878. 1879.  
\*—*Id.* (*Angl.*) p. 217.

LE GORE-MOUCHE. — B. H. HANSEN, 506, N. 4th St., Portland, Ore.  
1. p. 54. pl. 130. 1. 8.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER, Zool. No. 1  
 III. p. 323. 1

in Europa.—5½ pollices longa.

**W.**



FIG. 1. THE SPOTTED FLY-CATCHER, OF LORRAIN.

FIG. 2. THE COMMON SPOTTED FLY-CATCHER.



blackish cinereous; its throat is white; its breast and the sides of its neck are spotted with faint ill-defined brown; the rest of the under part of its body is whitish; the upper part of its head appears variegated with grey and brown; all the higher part of its body, its tail, and its wings, are brown; the quills and their coverts are lightly fringed with whitish.

The Spotted Flycatchers arrive in April, and depart in September. They live generally in the forests; and prefer the solitude of the close shady spots; and sometimes they are found in the thick vineyards. They have a melancholy air; their disposition is wild, inanimate, and even stupid: they place their nest, entirely exposed, either on the trees or the bushes. No small bird is so incautious, and none has instincts so unsettled. Their nests are not of an uniform construction; some consist entirely of moss, and others have a mixture of wool. They consume much time and labour upon the rude structure, and sometimes we find it interwoven with thick roots, and are surprised that so small an artificer could employ such materials. They lay three or four eggs, sometimes five, which are covered with rufous spots.

These birds procure the principal part of their subsistence while on the wing, but seldom alight, and then only by starts, upon the ground, and never run along it. The male is not different from the female, except that its face is more variegated with brown, and its belly is not so

white. They appear in France in the spring, but the cold weather which sometimes prevails in the middle of that season is pernicious to them. Lottinger observes, that they almost all perished in the snows which fell in Lorraine in 1767 and 1772, and that they were caught by the hand. Every degree of cold that destroys the insects, their only support\*, must prove fatal to them; accordingly, they leave our provinces before the frost sets in, and they are never seen after the end of September. Aldrovandus says, that they do not migrate; but this must be understood in regard to Italy, or of still warmer countries†.

\* Virey says, that insects are not their only food, and that they live also on berries, and perhaps on seeds. The insects which they take when at rest are deposited, as a store, under their wings. This little bird flies very light, and is extremely quick when in search of its prey. Coleopterous insects are not to its taste; their horny coats are too hard of digestion.

W.

† The Flycatcher appears in England in the spring, and retires in August. "It is of all our summer birds," says Mr. White, "the most mute, and the most familiar. It builds in a vine, or a sweetbriar, against the wall of an house, or in the hole of a wall, or on the end of a beam or plate, and often close to the post of a door where people are going in and out all day long. This bird does not make the least pretension to song, but uses a little inward wailing note, when it thinks its young in danger from cats or other annoyances: it breeds but once, and retires early." When its young are able to fly it retires with them to the thick woods, and frolics among the high branches, sinking and rising often perpendicularly in quest of flies which hum below.

# THE COLLARED BLACK FLY-CATCHER, or, the FLYCATCHER of LORRAINE\*.

## *Second Species.*

It appears to be better known in Lorraine, and more common than in other parts. It is rather smaller than the preceding, being scarcely five inches long; it has no other colours than white and black, which are dispersed in distinct spots; but its plumage, notwith-

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA ARTRICAPILLA. *M. nigra*, subtus frontisque macula alarumque speculo albis, rectricibus lateralibus extus albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 467. No. 2.

MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 935.

RUBETRA ANGLICANA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 436. 27.

CENANTHE NOSTRA QUARTA.—*Raii Syn.* p. 77. A. 5.—*Will.* p. 170.

TRAQUET d'ANGLETERRE.—*Buff.* v. p. 222.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE de LORRAINE.—*Buff.* par *Sonn.* i. pl. 130. f. 2.

COLD FINCH.—*Edw.* t. 30.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 236.

PIED FLYCATCHER.—*Br. Zool.* No. 135.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 391. B.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 324. 2.—*Bew. Birds,* i. p. 201.

### HABITAT

in Europa; in montosis et locis frigidioribus Angliæ.—  
4½ pollices longa. W.



standing, varies more remarkably than that of any other bird.

The male appears to have four different garbs, according to the seasons. The first is that of the autumn, or winter, when the plumage is the same with that of the female, which is not subject to such changes. The second is worn when these birds arrive in Provence or Italy, and is then exactly like that of the Epicurean warbler. The third is what they assume shortly after their appearance, and may be termed the spring attire\*. This is only the intermediate gradation to the fourth state, which is that of summer, and which, as Lottinger observes, may be properly termed its *marriage suit*, because it assumes this at pairing, and lays it aside after the breeding is over. The bird is then in its full beauty: a white collar three lines broad encircles its neck, which is of the finest black; its head is of the same colour, except the front and the face, which are bright white; its back and its tail are stained with the black of the head; its rump is variegated with black and white; a white streak of a line in breadth borders for some way the outermost quills of the tail; the wings, consisting of seventeen quills, are of a deep chesnut; the

\* "I fed one this spring three or four days. Every person admired it, though one of its finest ornaments (the collar) was wanting. The white and black of its plumage were of the brightest tints." *Letter of M. LOTTINGER, 30th April, 1772.*

third and the four following are tipped with a much lighter brown, which, when the wings are closed, has a very fine effect: all the quills, the two first excepted, have a white spot on the outer edge, which enlarges the nearer it is to the body; so that the outer edge of the last quill is entirely white; the throat, the breast, and the belly are white; the bill and the legs black. There is a remarkable lustre and gloss spread over the whole of the plumage; but these beauties are gone before the beginning of July. The colours grow dilute and dusky; the collar first disappears, and the rest soon becomes stained and obscure, and the male is no longer distinguishable from the female. "I have frequently met with bird-catchers," says Lottinger, "who spread the nets on the springs in places where they breed; and though it was only in July, they told me that they caught numbers of females, but not a single male;" so entirely was the external distinction of sex obliterated. That naturalist has not described so fully the vernal plumage with which they enter into the southern provinces. However, Aldrovandus seems to indicate the change of this Flycatcher, which he has well described in another place\*, when, ranging it again with the becafigos, he tells us of his having surprised

\* He describes its collar, the white spot on its wing: he commends its beauty. It is known, he says, by the fowlers of Bologna, under the name of *Peglia-Mosche*.

it at the very instant of its transformation, being then neither an *Epicurean-Warbler* nor a *Black-Cap*. Already, he subjoins, the collar was become white; there was a white spot on the front; white on the tail and the wings; the under part of the body white, and the rest black. These properties sufficiently discriminate the Collared Black Flycatcher.

This bird arrives in Lorraine about the middle of April. It lives in the forests, those especially which consist of tall trees, and breeds in the holes of the trunks, sometimes pretty deep, and at a considerable height above the surface of the ground. Its nest is formed of small stalks of grass, and a little moss, which covers the bottom of the cavity: It lays six eggs. After the young are hatched, the parents frequently go in and out, carrying supplies of food; and this care of their infant brood often betrays the retreat, which would otherwise be difficult to discover.

They subsist only upon flies, and other winged insects. They are never seen on the ground; and for the most part they keep very high, fluttering from tree to tree. They have no song, but only an exceeding shrill plaintive accent, which turns upon the sharp note *crrî, crrî*. They appear sad and gloomy; but their attachment to their offspring inspires activity, and even courage.

Lorraine is not the only province in France where the Collared Black Flycatcher is found;

Hebert has informed us, that one was seen in Brie, but where it is little known, because it is wild and transitory. We ourselves found one of these Flycatchers on the 10th of May, 1773, in a small park near Montbard in Burgundy; and it was in the same state of plumage as that described by Brisson. Of the great coverts, which he says are tipped with white, those only which were next the body were such, and the more remote were brown; the inferior coverts alone of the tail were white, the superior ones were blackish-brown; the rump was dull pearl-grey; the nape of the neck, where the collar was situated, was lighter than the head and the back; the middle quills of the wings were near the tip of the same brown as the great quills; the tongue appears to be indented at the tip, broad for the size of the bird, but proportioned to the breadth of the bottom of the bill; the intestinal tube was eight or nine inches long; the gizzard muscular, preceded by a dilatation of the *œsophagus*; there were some marks of a *cæcum*; and no gall-bladder. The bird was a male, and the testicles seemed to be a line in diameter; it weighed three gros.

In this species of Flycatchers, the ends of the wings meet, and stretch beyond the middle of the tail; which is the reverse of what generally takes place in the genus.—There are several inaccuracies in the figures given of it in the *Planches Enluminées*.

This pensive bird enjoys a quiet peaceful life,

protected by solitude. It avoids the cold season, and shifts the scene to the genial climes of the south, there to renew its loves. They are found, however, pretty far north, since they inhabit Sweden \*.—There are two species from the cape of Good Hope, which seem to be the same with that of Lorraine; the first, being distinguished only by a rusty spot on the breast; and the second is only the female. The difference of appearance is very slight, if we estimate the influence of so distant a climate †.

\* Fauna Suecica.

† Pennant says it is found as far north as Sweden, and in Russia has been observed between the river Kama and Samara. Latham has also seen the bird among some Chinese drawings. W.

## THE UNDULATED FLYCATCHER\*.

### *Third Species.*

WE have in our cabinet two Flycatchers sent from the Isle of France; the one rather black than brown, and the other simply brown. Both are smaller, and especially shorter, than the European Flycatchers. In the first the head is blackish-brown, and the wings rusty-brown; the rest of the plumage is a mixture of whitish and of a brown, like that of the head and wings, disposed in small waves, or small spots, without much regularity.—The second appears to be only the female of the first. In fact, the differences are too slight to constitute two spe-

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA UNDULATA. M. albedo fuscoque undulatum varia, capite fusco-nigricante, alis rufo-fuscis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 472. No. 19.

MUSCICAPA UNDULATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 940.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE de L'ISLE de FRANCE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 70.

UNDULATED FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 333. 16.

### HABITAT

la insula Franciæ; atricapilla minor.

W.

cies; for the size, the figure, the colours, and almost the shades are similar. The second has indeed more white, mixed with rusty on the breast and belly; the brown-grey on the head and body is more dilute; but the colours of the female are lighter in all the species of birds.

# THE SENEGAL FLYCATCHER\*.

## *Fourth Species.*

UNDER this appellation we shall comprehend the two birds figured in the *Planches Enluminées*, by the names of *Rufous-breasted Flycatcher of Senegal*, and *Black-breasted Flycatcher of Senegal*. These handsome birds may be described together; they are of the same size, and are natives of the same climate; and the distribution of their colour is similar in both. It is probable that they are the male and female of the same species. The white line

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA SENEGALENSIS. *M. varja*, superciliis albis, rectricibus extimis dimidiato-albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 470. No. 8.

MUSCICAPA SENEGALENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 938.

————— PECTORE RUFO.—*Bris.* ii. p. 374. 10. t. 37. f. 2.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE à BANDEAU BLANC du SENEGAL.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 567. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 72.

SENEGAL FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 328. 5.

### HABITAT

in Senegala.—4½ pollices longa.

W.



which passes upon the eye, and encircles the head with a sort of little diadem, is not so entire or distinct in any other of the genus. The first is the smaller, being only three inches and a half long; a rufous spot covers the top of the head, which is surrounded by the white ring: from the exterior angle of the eye an oval black spot extends, which is bounded above by the ring, and stretches into a point near the tip of the bill; the throat is white; a light rufous spot marks the breast; the back is light-grey, spread upon white; the tail and the wings are blackish. A white line extends obliquely on their middle coverts, and the same coverts are edged with scales of the rufous colour of the breast. A glossy transparency is spread over all the plumage of this bird; still lighter and more vivid on that of the other, which is simpler in its colours, consisting of a mixture of light-grey, of white, and of black, and is not inferior in point of beauty; the white bar passes upon the eyes; a horse-shoe of the same colour rises pointed under the bill, and is cut square on the breast, which is distinguished by a black belt; the top of the neck is black, which, mingling with the white of the back, melts into grey; the quills are black, fringed with white, and the white line of the coverts opens into festoons; the shoulders are black; but there is a little fringed white interwoven with all this black;

and through all the white of the plumage small black shades are interspersed, which are so light and transparent, that this little bird is more beautiful than many which are decorated with a profusion of rich and vivid tints.

## THE BOURBON FLYCATCHER\*.

*Fifth Species.*

WE shall consider the crested Flycatcher of the island of Bourbon as only a variety of the crested Flycatcher of Senegal, and both as forming one species. The island of Bourbon, placed in the midst of a vast ocean, and situated between the tropics, enjoys an uniform temperature, which requires not periodical migrations, and when first visited by the European ships contained no land-bird. Those found in it at present have been carried thither by chance or design; nor must it be regarded as the native

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA CRISTATA. *M. cristata castanea, subtus cinerea, capite colloque inferiore nigro-virescentibus, rectricibus castaneo-purpureis; cauda elongata.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 470. No. 9.

MUSCICAPA CRISTATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 938.

MUSCICAPA SENEGALENSIS CRISTATA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 422. 33. t. 39. f. 2.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE HUPPE' du SENEGAL.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 573. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 75.

CRESTED SENEGAL FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 329. 6.

## HABITAT

in Senegala.—8½ pollices longa.

W.

seat of original species\*: we shall therefore class the bird discovered on the island with its analogous one of the continent. In fact, the differences between them are not greater than those which often occur among individuals of this genus; their figure, their bulk, and their principal colours, are the same; in both the head is furnished with small feathers, half-raised into a black crest, with green and violet reflections; this black descends in the Senegal Flycatcher like a square spot upon the breast, and the fore-part of the neck. In that of Bourbon, the black covers only the head, with the eye, and also the lower mandible; but in other subjects, it is spread also upon the top of the neck. In both the under part of the body is of a fine light slate-grey, and the upper side bay, which

\* We find also two Flycatchers of the isle of Bourbon, which we shall barely mention, convinced that they belong to some species on the continent of Africa. The one is represented in the *Illumined Plates*, No. 72, fig. 3: it is small, and quite black, except a little rufous which it has under its tail; and, notwithstanding the difference of colour, we may suppose it to be a variety of the Cape Flycatchers, which we have already referred to our Collared Black Flycatcher: these differences of plumage being apparently no other than what we see it undergo itself, and which the influence of a hotter climate must render more extensive and rapid, especially as it is naturally disposed to change. M. Brisson indicates, in the following terms, the third Flycatcher of the isle of Bourbon, to which, he says, the inhabitants give the name of *Tecteo*:—"Flycatcher, above brown the edges of the quills tawny; below tawny, (*male*). Dirty white; the tail-quills deep-brown; their outer edges light-brown, (*female*)."

is more vivid in that of Bourbon, and deeper and chesnut in that of Senegal; and this colour, which extends equally over the whole of the tail and wings of the last, is intersected by a little white in the other, and assumes a deeper cast on the coverts, which are also fringed with three lighter streaks. The blackish colour of the quills has only a light rusty border on the outside, and whitish on the inside of the webs. The greatest difference occurs in the tail; that of the Bourbon Flycatcher is short and square, being only two inches and a half long; the tail of the Senegal Flycatcher is more than four inches, and is tapered from the two middle quills, which are the longest, to the outer ones, which are two inches shorter. This difference may be imputed to the effect of age, season, or of sex: at any rate, the classing of them together will excite a fuller investigation, and an attention to the points of discrimination\*.

\* This bird has a wedge-shaped elongated tail. W.

## THE BROWN-THROATED SENE- GAL FLYCATCHER\*.

### *Sixth Species.*

THIS Flycatcher was brought from Senegal by Adanson. It is the same with what Brisson describes under the appellation of *Collared Senegal Flycatcher*, which is improper, since neither the brown spot on the throat, nor the black line that bounds it, can be termed a collar. A brown chesnut spot rises with a straight transverse margin under the bill and the eyes, and

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA COLLARIS. M. plumbeo-cinerea, subtus fasciæque alarum alba, collo inferiore subcastaneo, rectricibus nigris, lateralibus apice albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 471. No. 11.

MUSCICAPA MELANOPTERA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 939.

MUSCICAPA SENEGALENSIS TORQUATA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 370. 8. t. 36. f. 1.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE à GORGE BRUNE du SENEGAL.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 79.

————— ROUSSE.—*Pl. Enl.* 567. f. 3.

COLLARED FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 330. 8.

### HABITAT

in Senegala,—4½ pollices longa.

W.

spreads on the throat, but extends not to the breast, being terminated at the lower part of the neck with a narrow black line, which is very distinct, as the breast, with the rest of the lower part of the body, is white; the upper surface is of a fine blueish-grey; the tail blackish; the outermost quill is white on the outside; the great coverts of the wings are white also, the small ones blackish; the quills are deep cinereous, fringed with white, and the two next the body are white through their outer half; the bill is broad and flat, and beset with bristles at the angles\*.

\* It inhabits the banks of the river Senegal, where it feeds on flies. W.

## THE AZURE FLYCATCHER\*.

### *Seventh Species.*

A BEAUTIFUL azure covers the back, the head, and all the fore-part of the body of this pretty Flycatcher, except a black spot on the back of the head, and another black spot on the breast; the blue extends to the tail, and gradually grows more dilute; it tinges the small webs of the wing-quills, of which the rest are blackish; and it also gives shades to the white of the ventral feathers.

This bird is rather smaller, taller, and slen-

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA CÆRULEA. M. cærulea nitens, subtus cærulescenti-alba, macula occipitis pectorisque nigra.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 476. No. 36.

MUSCICAPA CÆRULEA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 943.

LE PETIT AZUR.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 81.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE BLEU des PHILIPPINES.—*Pl. Enl.* 666. f. 1.

AZURE FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 339.—*Id. Sup.* p. 172.

### HABITAT

in Philippinis.—5 pollices longa.

W.



derer, than the spotted Flycatcher of Europe. Total length five inches; the bill seven or eight lines, and not scalloped or hooked; the tail two inches, slightly tapered; the blue has a glossy lustre.

## THE WHISKERED FLYCATCHER.

### *Eighth Species.*

IN all the Flycatchers, the bill is beset with bristles; but, in the present, they are so long that they reach to the tip, which is the reason of its epithet *whiskered*. It is near five inches long; its bill very broad at the base, and very flat through its whole length; the upper mandible projects a little beyond the lower, all the upper side of the body is deep olive-brown, except the top of the head, which is covered by orange feathers, partly concealed by the other feathers: the under side of the body is greenish-yellow, which, on the rump, runs into a fine yellow.

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA BARBATA. M. olivaceo-fusca, subtus uropygi-  
oque virescente flava, vertice aurantio.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.*  
ii. p. 488. No. 86.

MUSCICAPA BARBATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 933.

LE BARBICHON de CAYENNE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 830. f. 1. 2.  
—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 83.

WHISKERED FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 364. 77.

#### HABITAT

in Cayana.—5 pollices longa.

W.

The female is somewhat larger than the male; all the upper side of its body is blackish-brown, mixed with a slight tint of greenish, not so conspicuous as in the male; the yellow of the top of the head forms only an oblong spot, which is partly hid by the feathers of the general colour; the throat and the top of the neck are whitish; the feathers of the rest of the neck, of the breast, and of the under surface of the wings, have their middle brown, and the rest yellowish; the belly and the under surface of the tail are entirely of a pale yellow; the bill is not so broad as in the male, and has only a few short bristles on each side.

The notes of the Whiskered Flycatcher are not sharp; it whistles gently the sound *pipi*. The male and female generally keep together. The incautious manner in which the Flycatchers place their nest is remarkable in this species; it does not seek the leafy boughs, but builds on the most naked and exposed branches. The nest is the more easily detected, as it is exceedingly large, being twelve inches high, and more than five in diameter, and entirely composed of moss; it is closed above, and has a narrow aperture in the side, three inches from the top. We owe our information to M. de Manoncour\*.

\* The male and female are always together. They place their nests farther from the water than the other Flycatchers of Cayenne.

## THE BROWN FLYCATCHER\*.

### *Ninth Species.*

THE Brown Flycatcher is scarcely four inches long; the feathers of its head and back are blackish-brown, edged with fulvous-brown; the fulvous is deeper, and predominates on the quills of the wing, and the black on those of the tail, which have a whitish fringe; all the under side of the body is whitish, except a fulvous tint on the breast; the tail is square, and half covered by the wings; the bill is sharp, with small bristles at its root;—such are the distinguishing features of this little bird. Its species seems, however, to admit a variety, if the differences which we perceived in another subject are not

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA FULIGINOSA. *M. fusca flavescente marginata, subtus albida, pectore subrufo.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 487 No. 79.

MUSCICAPA FULIGINOSA. —*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 932.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE BRUN de CAYENNE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 574. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 86.

BROWN FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 361. 70.

#### HABITAT

in Cayana; parva species; vix 4 pollices longa.

W.

to be imputed to age or sex. The dusky ground of the plumage, in this last bird, had a yellowish tint under the belly, and an olive-brown on the breast; the head and back, had a slight cast of a deep olive-green, and on the great quills of the wings were some lighter streaks, but the small coverts were dyed with a pale light rose-yellow.

## THE RUFOUS FLYCATCHER\*.

*Tenth Species.*

THE Rufous Flycatcher is found in Guiana in the skirts of the woods and the margins of the savannas: it is easily distinguished, its breast being orange, and the rest of its body rufous; its length is four inches nine lines; its bill is very flat, and broad at the base; the head and the higher part of the neck is greenish-brown; the back is rufous, stained also with greenish-brown; the tail is entirely rufous; the black of the wing-quills does not appear when they are closed except at the point, their small webs being rufous: instead of the orange spot on the breast, white or whitish covers the under part of the body. There is only one specimen in the king's cabinet.

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA RUFESCENS. *M. rufescente-nitens, subtus rufo-alba, remigibus nigris, vertice macula rufa.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 487. No. 82.

MUSCICAPA RUFESCENS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 932.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE ROUX de CAYENNE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 453. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 88.

RUFOUS FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 362. 73.

## HABITAT

in Cayana.— $5\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa.

W.

THE LEMON FLYCATCHER OF  
LOUISIANA.*Eleventh Species.*

THIS Flycatcher may be compared for its size and colour to the yellow wagtail. Its breast and belly are covered with a fine lemon-colour, which is still brighter on the forehead and the cheeks; the rest of the head and neck are enveloped with a fine black, which extends below the bill, and forms a round horse-shoe on the breast; a greenish-grey covers, on the back and shoulders, the cinereous ground of the plumage, and appears in lines on the small webs of the great wing-quills. The vivacity and elegance of its colours, the glossy black conspicuous on its light-yellow ground, the uniform tint of its greenish robe, conspire to render this bird one of the handsomest of the genus.

## THE RED-EYED FLYCATCHER\*.

*Twelfth Species.*

THIS consists of two kinds of varieties; the one described by Edwards, the other by Catesby. The first is of the same bulk and proportions as those of the European Flycatchers. The upper part of the head and body is olive-brown; a white fillet rises above the eyes; the ground-colour of the quills is ash-brown, and they are fringed with olive for a considerable part of their length. —The second kind is described by Catesby under the name of the *Red-eyed Flycatcher*; its colours are darker than those

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA OLIVACEA. *M. olivacea*, subtus albidior, superciliis albis, oculis rubris.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 482. No. 61.

MUSCICAPA OLIVACEA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 938.

MUSCICAPA JAMAICENSIS.—*Bris.* ii. p. 410. 27.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE de la CAROLINE et de la JAMAÏQUE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 92.

OLIVE-COLOURED FLYCATCHER.—*Edw.* t. 253.

RED-EYED FLYCATCHER.—*Cat. Car.* t. 54.—*Brown. Jam.* p. 476.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 271.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 351. 52.

## HABITAT

estate in Carolina, hyeme in Jamaica;—5½ pollices longa.  
W.



of the former. It breeds in Carolina, and removes to Jamaica in winter; but Sir Hans Sloane makes no mention of it. Brown, however, reckons it one of the migratory Jamaica birds. It has not a great extent of notes, he tells us, but its tones are full and mellow.—This property must be peculiar to it, for all the other Flycatchers utter shrill broken sounds.

\* In Jamaica it is called, on account of its note, *Whip Tom Kelly*. It makes a pendulous nest, formed with wool and cotton, lined with hair and withered grass, and bound together by a thready moss. It lays five eggs, white, and thinly strewed with rufous spots.†

## THE MARTINICO FLYCATCHER\*.

*Thirteenth Species.*

A FINE brown, which is deeper on the tail, covers all the upper part of the body of this bird as far as the head, whose small feathers, tinged with some streaks of a more vivid rufous-brown, are half erect, forming a tuft on the crown: under the bill is a little white, which soon gives place to a light slate-grey, that covers the fore-part of the neck, the breast, and the stomach; the same white appears again on the belly. The quills of the wings are blackish-

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA MARTINICA. M. capite cristato, corpore fusco, subtus cinereo, remigum margine exteriori albido.

—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 483. No. C2.

MUSCICAPA MARTINICA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 930.

———— MARTINICANA CRISTATA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 362.  
3. t. 30. f. 2.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE HUPPE' de la MARTINIQUE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 568. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 95.

MARTINICO FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 352. 52.

## HABITAT

in Martinica.—6 pollices longa.

W.

brown, fringed with white; their coverts, which are fringed with the same, enter by degrees into the rufous-tint of the shoulders; the tail is somewhat tapered, its third part hid by the wings, and is two inches long. The bird is five inches and a half.

## THE BLACK-CAP FLYCATCHER\*.

*Fourteenth Species.*

THIS bird is nearly as large as the nightingale; its plumage, from the head to the tail, is of an uniform dull brown; its breast and belly are white, with a shade of yellowish-green; its thighs and legs are black; the head of the male is of a deeper black than that of the female, and this is the only difference between them. They breed in Carolina according to Catesby, and migrate from thence on the approach of winter.

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA FUSCA. *M. fusca*, subtus albo-flavicans, pileo nigro, cauda subforficata.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 488. No. 63.

MUSCICAPA FUSCA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 931.

———— CAROLINENSIS FUSCA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 367. 6.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE NOIRATRE de la CAROLINE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 97.

BLACK-CAP FLYCATCHER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 269.—*Cut. Car.* i. t. 53.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 353, 53.

## HABITAT

in Carolina.—6½ pollices long.

W.

## THE BLACK and WHITE FLY- CATCHER\*.

### *Fifteenth Species.*

THIS bird, which is called *Gillit* in its native country Guiana, is of an uniform white on the head, the throat, and all the under part of the body. The rump, the tail, and the wings, are black, and the small quills of these edged with white. A black spot rises behind the head, and stretches to the neck, where it is bounded by a white cap, which makes a circle on the back.—The length is four inches and a half, and the plumage of the female is entirely of a light

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA BICOLOR. M. nigra, corpore subtus fronte orbitis uropygio fascia alarum rectricibusque apice albis.  
—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 469. No. 4.

MUSCICAPA BICOLOR.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 946.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE à VENTRE BLANC de CAYENNE.—*Pl. Enl.* 566. f. 3.

LE GILLIT ou GOBE-MOUCHE PIE de CAYENNE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 99.

BLACK AND WHITE FLYCATCHER.—*Edw.* t. 348. f. 1.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 327. 4.

### HABITAT

in Cayana.—4½ pollices longa.

W.

uniform grey. It is found in the overflowed savannas.

The *White-bellied Flycatcher of Cayenne*, No. 566. fig. 3. *Pl. Enl.* hardly differs at all from the *Gillit*, and we shall not separate them.

We shall also class with it the *White and Black Flycatcher* of Edwards, from Surinam, of which the colours are the same, except the brown on the wings, and black on the crown of the head, differences which are not specific.

brown, fringed with white; their coverts, which are fringed with the same, enter by degrees into the rufous-tint of the shoulders; the tail is somewhat tapered, its third part hid by the wings, and is two inches long. The bird is five inches and a half.

# THE BLACK-CAP FLYCATCHER\*.

## *Fourteenth Species.*

THIS bird is nearly as large as the nightingale; its plumage, from the head to the tail, is of an uniform dull brown; its breast and belly are white, with a shade of yellowish-green; its thighs and legs are black; the head of the male is of a deeper black than that of the female, and this is the only difference between them. They breed in Carolina according to Catesby, and migrate from thence on the approach of winter.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA FUSCA. *M. fusca*, subtus albo-flavicans, pileo nigro, cauda subforficata.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 488. No. 63.

MUSCICAPA FUSCA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 931.

———— CAROLINENSIS FUSCA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 367. 6.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE NOIRATRE de la CAROLINE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 97.

BLACK-CAP FLYCATCHER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 269.—*Cut. Car.* i. t. 53.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 353, 53.

### HABITAT

in Carolina.— $6\frac{1}{4}$  pollices long.

W.



## THE BLACK and WHITE FLY- CATCHER\*.

### *Fifteenth Species.*

THIS bird, which is called *Gillit* in its native country Guiana, is of an uniform white on the head, the throat, and all the under part of the body. The rump, the tail, and the wings, are black, and the small quills of these edged with white. A black spot rises behind the head, and stretches to the neck, where it is bounded by a white cap, which makes a circle on the back.—The length is four inches and a half, and the plumage of the female is entirely of a light

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA BICOLOR. *M. nigra*, corpore subtus fronte orbitis uropygio fascia alarum rectricibusque apice albis.  
—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 460. No. 4.

MUSCICAPA BICOLOR.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 946.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE à VENTRE BLANC de CAYENNE.—*Pl. Enl.* 566. f. 3.

LE GILLIT ou GOBE-MOUCHE PIE de CAYENNE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 99.

BLACK AND WHITE FLYCATCHER.—*Edw. t.* 348. f. 1.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 327. 4.

### HABITAT

in Cayana.—4½ pollices longa.

W.

uniform grey. It is found in the overflowed savannas.

The *White-bellied Flycatcher of Cayenne*, No. 566. fig. 3. *Pl. Enl.* hardly differs at all from the *Gillit*, and we shall not separate them.

We shall also class with it the *White and Black Flycatcher* of Edwards, from Surinam, of which the colours are the same, except the brown on the wings, and black on the crown of the head, differences which are not specific.

## THE CINEREOUS FLYCATCHER\*.

*Sixteenth Species.*

THIS is called, by Catesby, *The Little Brown Flycatcher*. Its figure and size are the same as those of his olive Flycatcher with red eyes and legs, and we should have ranged them together, had not that accurate observer distinguished them. A dull-brown tint, which covers uniformly all the upper part, is intersected by the rusty-brown of the feathers of the wings and tail; the under part of the body is dirty-white, with a shade of yellow; the thighs and-legs are black; the bill is flat, broad, and a little hooked

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA VIRENS. *M. fusco-virens, subtus lutea, superciliis albis.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 482. No. 57.

MUSCICAPA VIRENS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 936.

———— CAROLINENSIS CINEREA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 368. 7.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE BRUN de la CAROLINE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 101.

LITTLE BROWN FLYCATCHER.—*Cates. Car.* i. p. 54.

CINEREOUS FLYCATCHER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 270.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 350. 47.

## HABITAT

In Carolina.—5½ pollices longa.

W.

at the point, and eight lines in length ; the tail is two inches ; the whole length of the bird five inches eight lines ; it weighs only three gros.—This is all that Catesby informs us ; and from him the rest have borrowed their descriptions.

## THE ACTIVE FLYCATCHER \*.

### *Seventeenth Species.*

THIS Flycatcher is not larger than the yellow wren of Europe ; its plumage is almost the same, being cinereous and dirty-white in both, only this little bird has a greater mixture of greenish. The flatness of its bill indicates its relation to the Flycatchers. Our wrens, however, have the same instincts, and feed upon the various sorts of flies : in summer, they continually circle in search of the winged insects ; and in winter they attack their chrysalids and pierce the horny shell.

The total length four inches and a half ; the bill seven lines ; the tail twenty lines, and projects fifteen lines beyond the wings.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA AGILIS. *M. fusco-olivacea, subtus albida, gutture subrufo, remigibus caudaque nigricantibus.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 486. No. 77.

MUSCICAPA AGILIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 948.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE OLIVE de CAYENNE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 574. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 103.

ACTIVE FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 360. 68.

### HABITAT

in Cayana.

W.

## THE STREAKED FLYCATCHER\*.

### *Eighteenth Species.*

THIS Streaked Flycatcher is nearly of the same size as the active Flycatcher, which is also a native of Cayenne. Dirty-white, with a cast of greenish on the wing, and some distincter spots of yellowish-white, with ash-brown on the head and neck, and blackish cinereous on the wings, form the confused mottled plumage of this bird. It has a small beard of whitish bristled feathers under the bill, and a half crest of ash-coloured feathers mixed with yellow filaments on the crown of the head. The bill is of the same size as that of the preceding, and the tail is of the same length, but differs in its

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA VIRGATA. *M. subcristata fusca, subtus sordide alba fusco striata, fascia alarum duplici rufa.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 486. No. 76.

MUSCICAPA VIRGATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 948.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE 'TACHETE' de CAYENNE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 574. f. 3.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 105.

STREAKED FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 360. 67.

### HABITAT<sup>o</sup>

in Cayana.—4½ pollices longa.

W.

colours. The active Flycatcher appears also more nicely formed, and more lively in its motions than the Streaked ; at least as far as we can judge from the stuffed specimens\*.

\* This little bird frequents swampy places, and, perched on the branches of the trees which hang over the water, watches for the aquatic insects.

W.

# THE LITTLE BLACK AURORA FLY-CATCHER OF AMERICA \*.

## *Nineteenth Species.*

WE thus mark the two conspicuous colours of the plumage of this bird, to which naturalists have hitherto given only the vague appellation of American Flycatcher. It is hardly so large as the yellow wren. A bright black is spread over

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA RUTICILLA. M. nigra, subtus alba, pectore macula alarum basique remigum rectricumque flavis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 473. No. 22.

MUSCICAPA RUTICILLA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 935.

———— AMERICANA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 383. 14.

MOTACILLA FLAVICAUDA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 997. (*fem.*)

LE GOBE-MOUCHE d'AMERIQUE.—*Pl. Enl.* 566. f. 1. 2.

LE PETIT NOIR-AUORE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 107.

SERINO AFFINIS é CROCEO et NIGRO VARIA.—*Raii Syn.* p. 188. 51.—*Sloan. Jam.* p. 312. 50.

SMALL AMERICAN REDSTART.—*Edw.* t. 80.—*Cat. Cur.* i. t. 67. (*mas.*)

YELLOW-TAILED FLYCATCHER.—*Edw.* t. 257. (*femina.*)

———— WARBLER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 301.

BLACK-HEADED WARBLER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 282. (*mas.*) —301. (*femina?*)—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 427. 18.

### HABITAT

in America, Jamaica.—4½ pollices longa.

W.



the head, the throat, the back, and the coverts; a beautiful yellow aurora is pencilled on the white-grey of the stomach, and deepens under the wings; it also appears in streaks between the quills of the wings, and covers two-thirds of those of the tail, both which are tipped with black, or blackish.—Such are the colours of the male. In the female the black is dilute blackish, and the orange and blush-colour, yellow. Edwards gives figures of both male and female. Catesby represents the bird also under the name of *Small American Red-start*; but it is rather of a larger size, which would make us presume that it is a variety\*.

\* This little bird inhabits the shady forests of North America: it migrates in winter to warmer countries, such as Jamaica and the adjacent islands. W.

## THE ROUND-CRESTED FLY-CATCHER\*.

### *Twentieth Species.*

OF all the numerous family of Flycatchers this is the most brilliant. Its slender delicate shape suits the lustre of its garb: a crest, consisting of small divided feathers of fine crimson, projects in rays on its head; the same colour appears under its bill, covers its throat, breast, belly, and reaches the coverts of its tail; an ash-brown, intersected by some whitish waves on the edge of the coverts, and even of the quills, covers all the upper part of the body and wings; the bill is very flat, and seven lines long; the tail two inches, and exceeds the wings

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA CORONATA. M. crista rotundata, corpore supra fusco, subtus crista lateribusque capitis coccineis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 487. No. 81.

MUSCICAPA CORONATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 932.

LE RUBIN, ou GOBE-MOUCHE ROUGE HUPPE'.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 675. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 110.

ROUND-CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 362. 72.

### HABITAT

in America meridionali.—5½ pollices longa.

W.

## 160 THE ROUND-CRESTED FLYCATCHER.

by ten lines ; the whole length of the bird is five inches and a half. Commerson calls it *Cardinal Titmouse*, though it is neither a cardinal nor a titmouse \*. It would be one of the handsomest birds for the cage ; but the nature of its food seems to place it beyond the dominion of man, and to ensure it liberty or death.

\* We found the figure of these birds among the drawings brought by Commerson from the country of the Amazons. In Spanish it is called *Putillas*, as appears from a note at the bottom of the figure. The female, which is represented with the male, has no crest ; all the beautiful tints of its plumage are fainter.

## THE RUFOUS FLYCATCHER\*.

*The Twenty-first Species.*

THIS Flycatcher, which is five inches and a half long, is nearly of the size of the nightingale; all the upper part of its body is of a fine light rufous, with a flame cast, which extends over the small quills of the wings, and these covering the great quills when the wings are closed, have only a small black triangle formed by their extremities; a brown spot covers the crown of the head; all the anterior and the upper parts of the body are tipped with some slight shades of rufous; the tail is square and spread; the bill is broad, short, and strong, and its point reflected, and partaking therefore both of the flycatchers and of the tyrants. We are uncertain whether to refer it to Brisson's Rufous Flycatcher of Cayenne.—It is a discouraging circumstance that nomenclators have so often classed distinct objects by the same name: however, the *Rufous Flycatcher of Cayenne* is, according to Brisson, eight inches long, and ours is only five; and the difference in regard to colour will appear from comparing his descrip-

\* See the Tenth Species (*Muscicapa Rufescens*).

tion with what we have given \*. But there is no essential distinction between them, except in regard to size ; and that difference cannot be imputed to age, for if the smaller were supposed to be the younger, the orange spot on the breast would be less vivid than in the adult.

\* " Above, tawny-rufous ; below, dilute rufous ; its head, throat, and neck, deep cinereous ; the feathers on its throat, and its lower neck, edged with whitish ; its breast, rump, and tail-quills, bright rufous."—BRISSON.

## THE YELLOW-BELLIED FLY-CATCHER

### *Twenty-second Species.*

THIS beautiful Flycatcher inhabits the continent of America, and the adjacent islands. The one figured in the *Planches Enluminées* was brought from Cayenne; we have received another from St. Domingo, under the name of *Crested Flycatcher of St. Domingo*. We are of opinion that these differ only by their sex: that of St. Domingo seems to be the male; for the golden yellow of its crown is more vivid

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA CAYANENSIS. M. fusca, subtus lutea, superciliis albis, vertice subaurantio.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 484. No. 68.

MUSCICAPA CAYANENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 937.—*Bris.* ii. p. 404. 24. t. 38. f. 4.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE à VENTRE JAUNE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 569. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 115.

CAYENNE FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 355. 58.—*Id. Sup.* p. 173.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 359. 65.

### HABITAT

in Cayana et insula Dominicensi.—7½ pollices longa. W.

and more spread than in the other, where the lighter tint scarcely appears through the blackish feathers which cover that part of the head. In other respects the two birds are similar. They are rather smaller than the nightingale, being five inches and eight lines long; the bill is eight lines, and scarcely curved at the tip, and the wings reach not to the middle; the orange spot on the head is edged with a blackish ash-colour, a white bar crosses the face over the eyes, below which a spot of the same colour appears that spreads, and is lost in the rusty-brown of the back; this rusty-brown covers the wings and the tail, and becomes rather more dilute on the edge of the small webs of the quills; a fine orange-yellow covers the breast and the belly, which vivid colour distinguishes this bird from all the other Flycatchers. Though the golden-yellow feathers of the crown can be erected at pleasure, as in the small European wrens, yet, since they are usually reclined, the bird is not properly a *Crested Flycatcher*.

## THE KING of the FLYCATCHERS \*.

*Twenty-third Species.*

THIS has been named *The King of the Flycatchers*, on account of a beautiful crown placed transversely on its head ; whereas, in all other birds, the crests lie longitudinally. It consists of four or five rows of small round feathers, spread like a fan, ten lines broad, all of a bright bay-colour, and terminated with a little black spangle ; so that it might be taken for a peacock's tail in miniature.

This bird is also remarkably shaped, and seems to combine the features of the flycatchers, of the *moucherolles*, and of the tyrants. It is scarcely larger than the European flycatcher, and has a disproportioned bill, which is ten lines in length, and very broad and flat, beset with bristles that reach almost to its tip, which is hooked. The *tarsus* is short ; the toes slender ; the wing is not more than three inches, nor the tail more than two. It has a small white eye-brow ; its throat is yellow ; a blackish collar encircles its neck, and joins that tinge which covers the

\* LE ROI des GOBE-MOUCHES.—*Buff. par Sonn.* 1. p. 118. pl. 131. f. 1.

It is difficult to decide to what species this bird belongs.



back, and changes on the wing into a deep fulvous brown. The quills of the tail are light bay; and the same colour, though more dilute, stains the rump and the belly; the whitish colour of the stomach is crossed by small blackish waves.—This bird is very rare; only one specimen has been brought from Cayenne, where even it seldom appears.

## THE DWARFISH FLYCATCHERS\*.

### *Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Species.*

NATURE has proportioned these birds to their feeble prey; a large American beetle might be a match for them.—We have specimens of

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA PYGMÆA. *M. fusco-cinerea, subtus flavescens, capite cerviceque rufis nigro maculatis, sub oculis fascia palladi.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 488. No. 84.

MUSCICAPA PYGMÆA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 933.

LE GOBE-MOUCHERON.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 120.

LE PETIT GOBE-MOUCHE 'TACHETE' de CAYENNE.—*Pl. Enl.* 831. f. 2.

DWARF FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 363. 75.

#### HABITAT

in Cayana.—vix 3 pollices longa.

MUSCICAPA MINUTA. *M. olivaceo-grisea, dorso supremo corporeque subtus viridi adumbratis, striis alarum flavescens, sparsis.*—*Lath. Ibid.*

MUSCICAPA MINUTA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 933.

LE GOBE-MOUCHERON.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 120.

PETTY FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 364. 76.

#### HABITAT

cum præcedente, qua paulo major.

W.

them in the King's cabinet, and a short description will suffice.

The first is the smallest of the flycatchers ; it is less than the smallest of our wrens, and in its figure, and even in its colours, it is nearly the same. Its plumage is olive, without any yellow on the head, but a few light shades of greenish appear on the lower part of its back and on its belly ; and small lines of yellowish white are traced on the blackish quills, and on the coverts of the wings.—It is found in the warm parts of America.

The second is still smaller than the first ; all the under part of its body is light yellow, verging on straw-colour ; it is hardly three inches long ; its head, and the beginning of the neck, are partly yellow, partly black, each yellow feather having in its middle a black streak, which shows the two colours disposed in long and alternate spots ; the feathers of the back, the wings, and their coverts, are black cinereous, and edged with greenish ; the tail is very short, the wing still shorter ; the bill is slender, and lengthened, which gives this little Flycatcher a peculiar appearance.

The useful destination of the Flycatchers will occur to the most superficial observer. The insect tribes elude the interference of man ; and though despicable as individuals, they often be-

come formidable by their numbers. Instances are recorded of their multiplying to such an amazing degree as to darken the air; of their devouring the whole vegetable productions; and of their carrying in their train the accumulated ills of famine and pestilence. Happily for mankind such calamities are rare, and Nature has wisely provided the proper remedies. Most birds search for insects' eggs; many feed on their groveling *larvæ*; some live upon their crustaceous cysalids; and the Flycatchers seize them after they escape from prison, exulting on their wings. Hence in autumn, when these birds migrate into other climates, the swarms of gnats, flies, and beetles, are, in our latitudes, more than usually numerous. But in the tropical countries, where heat and moisture conspire to ripen the exuberance of insect life, the flycatchers are more essential. All Nature is balanced, and the circle of generation and destruction is perpetual! The philosopher contemplates with tender melancholy this cruel system of war; he strives in vain to reconcile it with his ideas of benevolence of intention: but he is forcibly struck with the nice adjustment of the various parts, their mutual connection and subordination, and the unity of plan which pervades the whole.

## THE MOUCHEROLLES.

WE shall term those Moucherolles which are larger than the common flycatchers, but smaller than the tyrants ; and, to avoid confusion, we shall range them in two divisions, corresponding to their size. As the Moucherolles are intermediate between the flycatchers and the tyrants, they participate of the nature of both.

They are found in both continents ; but they are different species which occur in each. The ocean that intervenes between the tropics is the great barrier, which none but the palmipede birds, from their facility in resting on the water, can pass.

In the hot climates Nature sports in the luxuriance of her productions. Many species of birds, such as the widow-birds, the Moucherolles, and the bee-eaters, which inhabit those sultry regions, are furnished with tails of uncommon length : this character distinguishes the Moucherolles from the flycatchers, from which they differ also in having their bill somewhat stronger, and more hooked at the tip.





THE FORKED-TAIL FLY-CATCHER.

## THE SAVANA

*First Species.*

THIS Moucherolle is nearly as large as the tyrants, and is figured in the *Planches Enluminées*, under the appellation of *Forked-tail Tyrant of Cayenne*; it is distinguished however by its bill, which is more slender and not so much hooked as in the tyrants. It is called *the Widow* at Cayenne; but this name is appropriated to another kind of birds, which it resembles in nothing except the length of its tail. It constantly haunts the flooded savannas, and for that

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA TYRANNUS. M. cauda longissima forficata, corpore nigro, subtus albo.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 484. No. 69.

MUSCICAPA TYRANNUS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 931.

TYRANNUS CAUDA BIFURCA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 395. 20. t. 39. f. 3.

LE SAVANA, TYRAN à QUEUE FOURCHUE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 571. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 185. pl. 131. f. 2.

FORKED-TAIL FLYCATCHER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 265.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 355. 59.

## HABITAT

in Surinamo, Canada.—14 pollices lon



reason we have termed it the *Savana*. It is observed to perch upon the adjacent trees, and to alight every minute upon the clods or grassy tufts which rise above the surface of the water, jerking its tail like the wagtails. It is as large as the crested lark; the quills of its tail are black, the two outermost nine inches long, and forked, the two following only three inches and a half, and the rest gradually shorter, so that the two mid-ones are only an inch:—and thus, though the bird is fourteen inches long, measuring from the point of the bill to the end of the tail, the distance between its bill and its nails is only six inches. On the crown of its head is a yellow spot, which is however wanting in many subjects, these being probably females. A short blackish square hood covers the back of its head; beyond that, the plumage is white, which colour advances under the bill, and spreads over all the anterior and under part of the body; the back is greenish-grey, and the wing brown.—This bird is found on the banks of the river De la Plata, and in the woods of *Montevideo*, from whence it was brought by Commerson\*.

\* It is found as far north as Canada.

**THE CRESTED MOUCHEROLLE,**  
with Steel-coloured Head \*.

*Second Species.*

THIS bird is found at the Cape of Good Hope, Senegal, and Madagascar. Brisson describes it in three different places of his Ornithology, by the names of *the Crested Flycatcher of the Cape*

\* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA PARADISI. M. capite cristato nigro, corpore albo, cauda cuneata, rectricibus intermediis longissimis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 480. No. 54.

MUSCICAPA PARADISI.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 929.

PICA PAPOENSIS.—*Bris.* ii. p. 45. 6.

TODUS PARADISÆUS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 445.

ICTERUS MADERASPATANUS CRISTATUS.—*Bris.* ii. p. 92. 7.

MUSCICAPA CRISTATA ALBA CAPITIS B. SPEI.—*Bris.* ii. p. 414. 29. t. 41. f. 2.

MANUCODIATA CRISTATA, &c.—*Raii Syn.* p. 195. 13. t. 2. f. 13.

LE MOUCHEROLLE HUPPE' à TÊTE COULEUR d'ACIER POLI.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 188.

PIED BIRD OF PARADISE.—*Edw.* t. 113.

PARADISE FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 345. 44.—*Id. Sup.* p. 172.

HABITAT,

in Africa, Asia.—8½ pollices longa.

W.

*of Good Hope, the White Flycatcher of the Cape of Good Hope\**, and *the Crested Flycatcher of Brazil*†. These three are really the same, the first and third being males, and the second, which is rather larger, a female; a property which, though principally confined to the birds of prey, obtains also in the flycatcher, the moucherolles, and the tyrants.

The male is seven inches long, the female eight inches and one-fourth; this excess being almost entirely in the tail; but its body is also somewhat thicker, and of the size of a common lark: in both, the head and the top of the neck are covered, as far as the circular division in the middle, with black, shining with a green or blueish gloss, whose lustre is like that of burnished steel: its head is decorated with a beautiful crest, which falls loosely back; its eyes are flame-coloured; its bill is ten lines in length, a little arched near the tip, reddish, and beset with pretty long bristles. All the rest of the body of the female is white, except the great quills, through which the black appears at the tips of the wings when closed; there are two rows of black streaks

\* White Crested Flycatcher:—"The head and upper part of the neck greenish-black; the tail-quills white, their outer edges and shafts black."

† Crested Flycatcher:—"Above dilute scarlet; below white; the head greenish-black; the superior coverts of the wings gold-coloured, the tail-quills dilute scarlet."

on the small quill-feathers and in the great coverts; and the shafts of the tail-quills are uniformly black throughout.

In the male, the breast, below the black hood, is blueish-grey, and the stomach and all the under part of the body white: a bright bay robe covers all the upper part to the end of the tail, which is oval shaped and regularly tapered, the two middle quills being the largest, and the others shortening two or three lines each: the same is the case in the female\*.

According to Adanson †, this Moucherolle lodges among the mangrove-trees, which grow in the solitary and unfrequented spots along the banks of the Niger and of the Gambia. Seba places it in Brazil, and ranges it with the birds of Paradise, applying the Brazilian appellation *Acamacu* ‡; but little can be relied upon the accuracy of that collector of Natural History, who so often bestows names without discernment. It is very unlikely that this bird could be found both in Africa and Brazil; yet Brisson founds his classification upon the authority of Seba, at the same time that he expresses a suspicion that Seba was mistaken. Klein supposes it to be a *Crested Thrush* ||, and

\* The Crested Moucherolle, like the other species of its genus, feeds on dipterous insects. It is a bird of great beauty, but will not live in a cage. W.

† *Supplement de l'Encyclopédie*, tome i.

‡ Brazilian Paradise Bird, or Crested Cuiriri *Acamacu*.

|| *Turdus Cristatus*.

Moehring, a Jackdaw \*;—a striking instance of the confusion bred by rage for nomenclature. But we have still another: Linnæus imagines it to be a Raven; but as it has a long tail, he calls it the *Paradise Raven* †.

\* *Monedula*.

† *Corvus Paradisi*.

## THE VIRGINIAN MOUCHE-ROLLE\*.

### *Third Species.*

CATESBY calls this the *Cat-bird*, because its cry resembles the mewling of a cat. It passes the summer in Virginia, where it feeds upon insects; it does not perch on large trees, and frequents only the shrubs and bushes. *It is a little larger, he tells us, than a lark.* Its size is therefore nearly the same as that of the little tyrant; but the straightness of its bill distinguishes it from the tyrants. The plumage is dark, being variously mixed with black and brown: the upper side of its head is black, and

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA CAROLINENSIS. *M. fusca*, subtus cinerea, capite nigro, crisso rubro.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 483. No. 64.

MUSCICAPA CAROLINENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 946.

———— VIRGINIANA FUSCA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 365. 5.

LE MOUCHEROLLE de VIRGINIE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 194.

CAT FLYCATCHER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 272.—*Cat. Car.* i. t. 66.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 353. 54.

### HABITAT .

in Virginia; migratoria.—9 pollices longa.

W.

the upper side of its body, of its wings, and of its tail, deep brown; and even blackish on the tail: its neck, its breast, and its belly, are of a lighter brown; a dull red cast appears on the lower coverts of its tail, which is three inches long, and consists of twelve equal quills, and only two-thirds of it covered by the wings; the bill is ten lines and a half, and the whole length of the bird is eight inches.—It breeds in Virginia, and lays blue eggs; it migrates on the approach of winter\*.

\* It builds its nest with leaves and rushes, and lines it with fibrous roots. It is very courageous, and will attack a crow.

# THE BROWN MOUCHEROLLE OF MARTINICO\*:

## *Fourth Species.*

THIS Moucherolle has not a long tail like the preceding kinds; in its size and figure it resembles the largest of the flycatchers. It is distinguished from the tyrants by the shape of its bill, which is not so much hooked as the bill of the smallest tyrants, and more slender; it is however eight lines long, and the bird itself six inches and a half. A deep brown of a

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA PETECHIA. *M. fusca*, subtus cinerea rufo maculata, gutture crissoque rufis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 486. No. 75.

MUSCICAPA PETECHIA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 948.

———— MARTINICANA FUSCA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 361. 4. t. 38. f. 1.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE BRUN de la MARTINIQUE.—*Pl. Enl.* 568. f. 2.

LE MOUCHEROLLE BRUN de la MARTINIQUE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 196.

PETECHIAL FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 360. 66.

### HABITAT.

in Martinica.— $6\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa.

W.



**180° BROWN MOUCHEROLLE OF MARTINICO.**

pretty uniform tinge covers the upper part of the body, the head, the wings, and the tail; the under surface of the body is undulated with transverse waves of rufous-brown; a few reddish feathers form the inferior coverts of the tail, which is square, and the edges of its outer quills are fringed with white lines.

## THE FORKED-TAIL MOUCHE- ROLLE OF MEXICO\*.

### *Fifth Species.*

It is larger than the lark ; its whole length is ten inches, of which its tail measures five ; its eyes are red, its bill eight lines long, flat, and rather slender : its head and back are covered with a very light grey, mixed with a dilute reddish ; the red colour below the wings extends also on the sides, and tinges the white that is spread over the whole of the under side of the body ; the small coverts are ash-coloured, and edged with scaly white lines ; the great coverts, which are blackish, are similarly fring-

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**MUSCICAPA FORFICATA.** *M. cauda longissima forficata, corpore pallide griseo, subtus albo, tectricibus alarum cinereis albido undulatis, inferioribus rubris.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 485. No. 70.

**MUSCICAPA FORFICATA.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 931.

**LE MOUCHEROLLE à QUEUE FOURCHUE du MEXIQUE.**

—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 677.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 198.

**SWALLOW-TAILED FLYCATCHER.**—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 356. 60..

### HABITAT

in Mexico.—10 pollices longa.

W.

182 FORK-TAILED MOUCHEROLLE OF MEXICO.

ed; the great quills of the wings are entirely black, and surrounded with rusty-grey: the outermost quills of the tail are the longest, and are forked like the swallow's tail: the other quills diverge less, and gradually shorten; so that the middle one is only two inches long: they are all of a glossy black, and fringed with rusty-grey: the outer webs of the largest quills on each side appear white almost their whole length. Some specimens have the tail longer than that sent from Mexico by M. de Boynes, then Secretary for the Marine Department,

## THE MOUCHEROLLE of the PHILIPPINES\*.

### *Sixth Species.*

It is as large as the nightingale; all the upper part of its body is brown-grey; all the under part of the wings and tail are whitish from below the bill; a white line stretches over the eyes, and long diverging hairs appear at the corners of the bill. Such are the obscure ambiguous features of this bird. A specimen is lodged in the king's cabinet.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA PHILIPPENSIS. *M. griseo-fusca, subtus al-bida, superciliis albis.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 476. No. 35.

MUSCICAPA PHILIPPENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 943.

LE MOUCHEROLLE des PHILIPPINES.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 200.

PHILIPPINE FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. 839. 29.

### HABITAT

in Philippinis.

W.

## THE GREEN-CRESTED VIRGINIAN MOUCHEROLLE\*.

### *Seventh Species.*

THE length of the tail and bill of this bird marks its relation to the Moucherolles: it is rather larger than the flycatchers, being eight inches long, of which its tail forms the half; its bill is flat, beset with bristles, and scarcely hooked at the tip, and it measures twelve lines and a half; the head is furnished with small feathers reclined into a half-crest; the top of the neck, and all the back, dull green; the

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**MUSCICAPA CRINITA.** M. capite cristato colloque cærulescentibus, abdomine flavescente, dorso virescente, remigibus rectricibusque rufis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 485. No. 71.

**MUSCICAPA CRINITA.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 934.

———— **VIRGINIANA CRISTATA.**—*Bris.* ii. p. 412. 28.

**LE GOBE-MOUCHE HUPPE' de VIRGINIE.**—*Pl. Ent.* 569. f. 1.

**LE MOUCHEROLLE de VIRGINIE à HUPPE' VERT.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 201.

**CRESTED FLYCATCHER.**—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 267.—*Cat. Car.* i. t. 52.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 357. 61.

### HABITAT

in Carolina, Virginia; migratoria.—8 pollices longa. W.

breast, and the fore-part of the neck, leaden-grey; the belly of a fine yellow; the wings brown, and so are the great quills, which are edged with bay; those of the tail are the same. This bird is not shaped like the tyrants, but appears to partake of their gloomy sullen temper. It would seem, says Catesby, from its disagreeable screams, to be always in enmity, and continually at variance with the other birds. It breeds in Carolina and Virginia, and before winter it removes to hotter climates\*.

\* It builds its nest in the holes of trees, employing for the materials, hair and snakes' skins.

## THE SCHET OF MADAGASCAR\*.

*Eighth Species.*

THE name *Schet* is applied in Madagascar to a beautiful long-tailed *Moucherolle*; and two others are called *Schet-all*, and *Schet-vouloulou*, which seem to denote the Rufous Schet, and the Variegated Schet, and mark only two varieties of the same species. Brisson reckons three; but a few differences in the colours are not sufficient to constitute distinct species, where the shape, the size, and all the other proportions, are the same.

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA MUTATA. M. capite cristato, cauda cuneata, rectricibus intermediis longissimis, palpebris cæruleis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 481. No. 55.

MUSCICAPA MUTATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 930.

————— MADAGASCARIENSIS varia LONGICAUDA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 430. 36. t. 40. f. 3.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE à LONGUE QUEUE et VENTRE BLANC.—*Pl. Enl.* 248. f. 2.

LE SCHET de MADAGASCAR.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 204.

MUTABLE FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 347. 45.

## HABITAT

in Madagascaria.—11½ pollices longus.

W.

The Schets have the long form of the wagtail; they are rather larger, measuring six inches and a half to the end of the true tail, not to mention two feathers which extend almost five inches farther; the bill is seven lines, triangular, very flat, broad at the base, beset with bristles at the corners, and with hardly any perceptible curve at the point: a beautiful blackish-green crest, with the lustre of burnished steel, is bent smooth back, and covers the head; the iris is yellow, and the eye-lid blue.

In the first variety, the same dark colour that paints the crest, encircles the neck, and invests the back, the great quills of the wings and of the tail, of which the two long feathers measure seven inches, and are white, as are also the small quills of the wings, and all the under part of the body.

In the *Schet-all*, the colour of the crest appears only on the great quills of the wings, whose coverts are marked with broad white lines; all the rest of the plumage is a bright gilded bay, which Edwards terms a *fine shining cinnamon*, which is spread equally over the tail and the two long projecting shafts; these shafts are similar to those which are sent off from the tail in the Angola and Abyssinian rollers, only in these birds they are the outermost, while in the Madagascar moucherolle they occupy the middle.

The third variety, or the *Schet-vouloulou*, has scarcely any difference from the preceding, ex-



cept that the two projecting feathers of the tail are whitish; the rest of the plumage is bay-coloured, as in the *Schet-all*.

In the *Schet-all* which is preserved in the king's cabinet, these two feathers are six inches long; in another specimen I found them to be eight inches, and the outer webs edged with black three-fourths of their length, and the remainder white; in a third, these two long feathers were entirely wanting; whether we must impute this to some accident, to the age, or to the moulting, which Edwards thinks lasts six months in these birds \*.

They are found not only in Madagascar, but in Ceylon, and at the Cape of Good Hope. Knox gives a good description of them †. Edwards calls the third Schet-all the *Pied Bird of Paradise*; however, Schets are entirely different from the birds of Paradise,

\* "I received this bird (the *Schet-ali*) from Ceylon. M. Brisson says, that it comes from the Cape of Good Hope; but the figure which he gives of it is surely imperfect, as it has not the two feathers of the tail, which are so remarkably large. I believe it is natural to some birds which have these long tails, to want them six months in the year . . . which I have seen in some long-tailed birds at London. . . . The white-crested flycatcher described by Brisson, is certainly the male of the same species."—*Gleanings*.

† "They are small birds, not much exceeding sparrows, charming to the eye, but good for nothing else. Some of these birds have their bodies as white as snow, the quills of

their tail a foot long, and their heads black like jet, with a tuft or crest. There are many others of the same kind, the only difference consisting in the colour, which is reddish-orange: these birds have also a tuft of black feathers erect on the head. I believe the one sort are the males, and the others the females of the same species."—*Hist. of Ceylon, by Robert Knox, London, 1681.*

## THE TYRANTS.

THE appellation of Tyrant applied to these birds must appear whimsical. According to Belon the ancients termed the little crowned wren *tyrannus* \* : in the present case, the name refers not only to this crown, but also to their sanguinary disposition. A sad proof of human misery, that the idea of cruelty is ever conjoined with the emblem of power ! We should therefore have changed this mortifying and absurd term, but we found it too firmly established by naturalists :—It is not the first time that we have been compelled by the general usage to acquiesce in improper and incongruous epithets.

These inhabitants of the New World are larger than the flycatchers or moucherolles ; they are stronger and more vicious ; their bill is larger and firmer ; their dispositions are darker and more audacious, and, in this respect, they resemble the shrikes, to which they are analogous also in the size of their body, and the shape of their bill.

\* This word, in Greek, signifies merely a king or prince.

## THE TITIRI, OR PIPIRI

### *First and Second Species.*

It has the size and strength of the great cinereous shrike; it is eight inches long, thirteen inches of alar extent; its bill flat, but thick, and thirteen lines long, bristled with mustachoes, and straight to the tip, where it is hooked: its tongue is acute and cartilaginous; the feathers on the crown of its head are yellow at the root, and terminated with a blackish speckling, which covers the rest when they are flat, but, when the bird swells with rage, they become erect, and the head then appears crowned

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

LANIUS TYRANNUS. L. cinereus, subtus albus, vertice nigro stria longitudinali fulva.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 81. No. 53.

LANIUS TYRANNUS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 302.

MUSCICAPA TYRANNUS.—*Bris.* ii. p. 391. 18.

LE TYRAN.—*Pl. Enl.* 537.

PICA AMERICANA CRISTATA.—*Frisch.* t. 62.

TURDUS CORONA RUBRA.—*Klein. Av.* p. 69. 25.

LE TITIRI, ou PIPIRI.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 225. pl. 132. f. 1.

TYRANT SHRIKE.—*Lath. Syn.* i. p. 184. 37.

### HABITAT

In America,—8 pollices longa.

W.

with a broad tuft of the most beautiful yellow; a light brown-grey covers the back, and on the sides of the neck it melts to the white slate-grey of the anterior and under part of the body: the brown quills of the wing and of the tail are edged with a rusty thread.

The female has the yellow spot on the head, though not so broad, and its colours are more dilute, or duller, than those of the male. A female, measured at St. Domingo by the Chevalier Deshayes, was an inch longer than the male, and its other dimensions in proportion: hence, in general, the smallest individuals in this species are the males\*.

At Cayenne, this Tyrant is called *Titiri*, from the resemblance to its shrill noisy screams. The male and female keep commonly together in the cleared spots of the forests; they perch on the lofty trees; and are very numerous in Guiana. They breed in the hollow trunks, or in the clefts of the branches below the shade of the most leafy bough. If one attempts to plunder their young, their natural audacity changes into intrepid fury; they contend obsti-

\* "All the Pipiris are not exactly of the same size, or of the same plumage; besides the difference remarked in all the kinds between the male and the female, there is still another with respect to the bulk of individuals in this species. This difference is often perceived, and strikes even the most careless observers. Probably the abundance or scarcity of proper food is the cause of the diversity."—*Note communicated by the Chevalier Deshayes.*

nately ; they dart upon the person ; pursue him ; and if, in spite of all their exertions, they are unable to rescue their dear offspring, they fondly visit the cage, and carry food.

This bird, though small, appears to dread no sort of animal. "Instead of fleeing, like the other birds," says Deshayes, "or concealing itself from the rapacious tribes, it attacks them with intrepidity, and harasses them to such a degree, that it generally succeeds in driving them off. No animal dares to come near the tree where it breeds. It pursues to a considerable distance, and with implacable obstinacy, all that it conceives to be its enemies, dogs especially, and birds of prey\*." It is not even intimidated at man ; so lately has his empire been established in those savage countries, that it seems not conscious of his power†. In the moments of its fury, it shuts its bill forcibly, which occasions a quick repeated cracking.

In St. Domingo this bird is named *Pipiri*, which, as well as *Titiri*, expresses its usual cry or squall. It is distinguished into two varieties, or two contiguous species : the first is the

\* M. Deshayes.

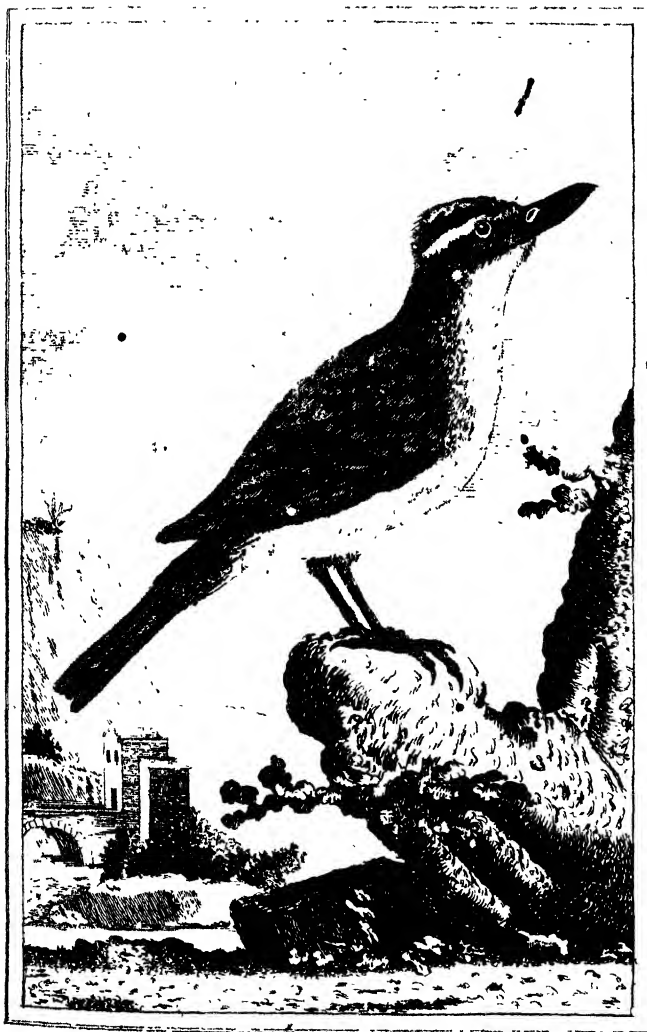
† "I shot a young one, which was only slightly wounded. My little negro who ran after it was attacked by a shrike of the same species, which was probably the mother : this bird fixed with such rancour on the boy's head, that he had the utmost difficulty to get rid of it."—Note communicated by M. de Munoncourt.

*Great Pipiri*, of which we have just spoken, and which is called in that country the *Black-headed Pipiri*, or the *Thick-billed Pipiri*; the other is called the *Yellow-headed Pipiri*, or the *Migratory Pipiri*, and is smaller and weaker. The upper part of the body in the last is grey, fringed throughout with white; but in the *Great Pipiri* it is fringed with rufous. The disposition of the small *Pipiris* is also much milder, and not savage as the others. These remain sequestered in the wilderness, and are never met with except in pairs; while the small *Pipiris* appear often in troops, and come near the settlements. They assemble in considerable flocks during the month of August, and haunt those places which yield certain kinds of berries that attract the beetles and insects. At that time these birds are very fat, and are caught for the table\*.

Though they are called *Migratory Pipiris*, it is not probable, says Deshayes, that they ever quit the island of St. Domingo, which is of sufficient extent to admit local changes. In fact, they leave their usual haunts in certain seasons, and follow the maturity of the fruits which feed their insect prey. All their other habits are the same as those of the great *Pipiris*: both species are very numerous in St. Domingo, and few birds occur there more frequently†.

\* M. Deshayes.

† "They are seen in the forests, in the abandoned grounds, in the cultivated spots; they like every situation; yet



THE GRAND TYRANT.





They live upon caterpillars, beetles, butterflies, and wasps. They perch on the highest summit of trees, and especially on the palms, from thence they descry the insect as it moves in the air, and the instant that they seize it they return again to their bough. They seem most engaged from seven in the morning till ten; and again from four o'clock in the afternoon till six. It is amusing to see them hunting their fugacious prey, and pursuing their devious course; but their lofty conspicuous station exposes them perpetually to the eye of the fowler.

No birds are so early awake as the Pipiris; they are heard at the first appearance of dawn\*; they pass the night on the summits of the tallest trees, and hail the approach of the morning. There is no stated season for their amours†. They breed, says M. Deshayes, in

the species of the Yellow-headed Pipiris, which are the most numerous, seem to prefer the settled parts. In winter they come near the houses; and as this season, from the mildness of the climate, corresponds to the spring in France, it seems that the coolness which then prevails inspires them with cheerfulness. Never are they seen so noisy, or so joyous, as in the months of November and December. They frolic with each other, toy, and caress."—*Note communicated by M. Deshayes.*

\* "Except the cock, the peacock, and the nightingale, which sing during the night, no bird is so early."—*Note communicated by M. Fresnaye, formerly counsellor at Port-au-Prince.*

† "The Black-headed Pipiris lay most undoubtedly in December. We cannot affirm whether each female breeds

*the heats of autumn, and during the freshening air of winter, at St. Domingo, though spring is the most usual season; they lay two or three eggs, sometimes four, which are whitish, and spotted with brown. Barrère reckons this bird a bee-eater, and terms it *Petit-ric*.*

*every year; nor whether these winter hatches, which seem extraordinary, be not occasioned by accidents, and destined to repair the loss of hatches made in the proper season."*—  
*Note communicated by M. Deshayes.*

## THE TYRANT OF CAROLINA\*.

*Third Species.*

FROM the account which Catesby has given of this bird, we do not hesitate to class it with the pipiri of St. Domingo, since its disposition and its habits are the same†. But it is dis-

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

LANIUS TYRANNUS. L. cinereus, subtus albus, capite caudaque nigris, rectricibus apice albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 82. No. 53. Var γ.

LANIUS CAROLINENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 302.

LE TYRAN de la CAROLINE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 233.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE de la CAROLINE.—*Pl. Enl.* 676.

TYRANT OF CAROLINE.—*Cal. Car.* i. t. 55.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 263.—*Lath. Syn.* i. p. 186. 37. B.

## HABITAT

in Carolina.

W.

† “ The courage of this little bird is singular. He pursues and puts to flight all kinds of birds that come near his station, from the smallest to the largest, none escaping his fury; nor did I ever see any that dared to oppose him while flying, for he does not offer to attack them when sitting. I have seen one of them fix on the back of an eagle; and persecute him so that he has turned on his back into various postures in the air, in order to get rid of him; and at last was forced to alight on the top of the next tree, from whence he dared not to move till the little Tyrant was tired, or

tinguished by its red crown, and the manner of placing its nest, which is left entirely exposed in the shrubs or bushes; whereas the pipiri conceals its nest, or even lodges it in the holes of trees. It is nearly of the same size as the great pipiri: its bill seems less hooked: Catesby says only *that it is broad, flat, and tapering*. The red spot on the upper part of its head is very brilliant, and is encircled with black feathers, which conceal it when they are closed.—This bird appears in Virginia and Carolina about the month of April; there breeds, and departs in the beginning of winter.

A bird sent to the king's cabinet, under the name of *Louisiana Tyrant*, appears to be exactly the same with the *Carolina Tyrant* of Catesby. It is larger than the fifth species, or Cayenne Tyrant, and almost equal to the great pipiri of St. Domingo. An ash-colour, almost black, is spread over all the upper part of the body, from the crown of the head to the end of the tail, which terminates in a small white

thought fit to leave him.—This is the constant practice of the cock, while the hen is breeding; he sits on the top of a bush, or small tree, not far from her nest, near which if any small birds approach, he drives them away; but the great ones, as crows, hawks, eagles, he will not suffer to come within a quarter of a mile of him without attacking them. They have only a chattering note, which they utter with great vehemence all the time they are fighting.—When their young are flown they are as peaceable as other birds.”—CATESBY.

bar shaped into festoons ; light whitish waves are intermixed in the small quills of the wing ; some small streaks of deep orange, inclined to red, shine through the blackish quills on the top of the head ; the throat is of a pretty pure white, which is shaded with black on the breast, and again becomes snowy from the stomach as far as the tail \*.

\* The Carolina Tyrant builds its nest with wool and moss, and lines it with fibrous roots. It lays five eggs, which are white, with rusty spots.

## THE BENTAVEO, or the CUIRIRI\*.

*Fourth Species.*

THIS Tyrant, called *Bentaveo* at Buenos-Ayres, whence it was brought by Commerson, and *Pitangua-guacu* by the people of Brazil, has been described by Marcgrave†. He makes it

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

LANIUS PITANGUA. L. niger, subtus flavus, vertice stria fulva, fascia oculari alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 78. No. 42.

LANIUS PITANGUA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 303.

PITANGUA-GUACU.—*Raii Syn.* p. 165. 1.—*Will.* p. 146. t. 38. *Id. (Angl.)* p. 198.

TYRANNUS BRASILIENSIS.—*Bris.* ii. p. 401. 23. t. 36. 5.

LE BENTAVEO ou CUIRIRI, TYRAN DU BRESIL.—*Pl. Enl.* 212.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 236.

BRASILIAN SHRIKE.—*Lath. Syn.* i. p. 187. 39.

## HABITAT

in Brasilia.—9 pollices longus.

W.

† “ The Pitangua-guacu of the Brazilians, Bemtere of the Portuguese, is equal in bulk to the stare; has a bill thick, broad, pyramidal, somewhat more than an inch long, sharpened exteriorly; its head compressed, and broadish; its neck short, which it contracts when sitting. Its body is nearly two inches and a half long; its tail broadish, and three inches long; its legs and feet are brown. Its head, the upper part of its neck, the whole of its back, its wings, and

of the size of the stare (we will observe that it is thicker, and more bulky); and represents its bill as thick, broad, and pyramidal, its edges sharp; and more than an inch long; its head bulky; its neck short; the head, the top of its neck, the whole of its back, its wings, and its tail, of a blackish brown, slightly shaded with dull green; its throat white, and also the little bar on the eye; the breast and belly yellow; and the small quills of the wings fringed with rusty colour. Marcgrave adds, that some of these birds have an orange spot on the crown of the head, and others a yellow one. The Brazilians call these *Cuiriri*; and in every other property they are similar to the *Pitangua-guacu*. Seba applies the name *Cuiriri* to a species entirely different.

Thus the Bentaveo of Buenos-Ayres and the Pitangua and Cuiriri of Brazil are the same; and in their instincts similar to the great pipiri of St. Domingo, or the titiri of Cayenne: but the colours of the Bentaveo, its bulk, and the thickness of its bill, the most obviously distinguish it.

its tail, are of a blackish-brown, mixed with a very little greenish. The lower part of its neck, its breast, and its lower belly, have yellow feathers; the upper part, however, near the head, has a little crown of white. From below the throat to the origin of the bill is white. It calls with a loud voice. Some of these birds have a yellow spot on the top of the head; some have it partly yellow; they are called by the Brazilians, Cuiriri. In every other respect they are like the *Pitangua-guacu*."—MARCGRAVE.



## THE CAYENNE TYRANT\*..

*Fifth Species.*

It is larger than the red-backed shrike of Europe. In the specimen belonging to the king's cabinet all the upper part of the body is ash-grey, deepening into black on the wings, of which some quills have a light white border; the tail is of the same dark cast, and is pretty broad, and three inches long; the whole bird measures seven inches, and the bill ten lines; a lighter grey covers the throat, and receives a greenish tinge on the breast; the bill is of a straw, or light sulphur colour; the small feathers on the top, and anterior part of the head, are half erect, and are painted with some strokes

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA FEROX. M. fusca, subtus flavescens, collo inferiore pectoreque cinereis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii, p. 485. No. 72.

MUSCICAPA FEROX.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 934.

TYRANNUS CAYANENSIS.—*Bris.* ii. p. 398. 21.

LE TYRAN de CAYENNE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 239.

TYRANT FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 357. 62.

## HABITAT

in Cayana.

W.

of citron-yellow and aurora-yellow; the bill is flat, beset with bristles, and hooked at the point. The female is not of so deep a brown.

The little Cayenne Tyrant of the *Planches Enluménées* is rather smaller than the preceding, and only a variety of it. The one described by Brisson is also a variety.

## THE CAUDEC\*.

*Sixth Species.*

THIS is the *Spotted Flycatcher of Cayenne*, as represented in the *Planches Enluminées*; but the hooked form of its bill, its strength, its size, and its disposition, entitle it to the name of Tyrant. It is called *Caudec* at Cayenne, and is eight inches long; the bill is scalloped at the edges near the hooked point, is beset with bristles, and is thirteen lines long. Dark grey and white, intermixed with some rusty lines on the wings, compose its varied plumage; white predominates on the under surface of the body, where it is sprinkled with long blackish spots; the blackish, on the other hand, is the prevail-

## \* CHÂRACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA AUDAX. *M. pigricans* rufo undulata, subtus flavicans, vertice flavo, capistro albo, uropygio caudaque rufis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 486. No. 74.

MUSCICAPA AUDAX.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 934.

LE GOBE-MOUCHE TACHETE' de CAYENNE.—*Pl. Enl.* 453. f. 2.

LE CAUDEC.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 241.

YELLOW-CROWNED FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 358. 64.

## HABITAT

in Cayana.—8 pollices longa.

W.

ing colour on the back, where the white forms only some edgings. Two white lines run obliquely, the one over the eyes, the other below them; small blackish feathers half conceal the yellow spot on the crown of the head. The feathers of the tail, which are black in the middle, have broad borders of rufous; the hind nail is the strongest of all.—The *Caudec* haunts the creeks, and perches on the low branches of trees, feeding probably upon aquatic insects. It is less frequent than the *Titiri*, but has the same audacity and cruelty. In the female, the yellow spot is wanting on the head; and in some males that spot is orange, a difference which is perhaps owing to the age.

## THE TYRANT OF LOUISIANA\*.

*Seventh Species.*

THIS bird was sent from Louisiana to the royal cabinet, under the name of *Flycatcher*, but ought to be ranged with the Tyrants. It is as large as the red-backed shrike; its bill is long, flat, beset with bristles, and hooked; its plumage is grey-brown on the head and back, light slate-colour on the throat, yellowish on the belly, and light rufous on the great coverts; its wings cover only the third part of its tail, which is a brown ash-colour, shaded with a little rufous from the wings. We are unacquainted with its instincts, but these features sufficiently characterize it; and as it has the strength of the pipir, it probably has also their habits.

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA LUDOVICIANA. M. griseo-fusca, subtus flavescens, gula cinerea, tectricibus alarum majoribus albo variegatis, remigibus rectricumque marginibus rufis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 486. No. 73.

MUSCICAPA LUDOVICIANA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 934.

LE TYRAN de la LOUISIANE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 243.

LOUISIANE FLYCATCHER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 264.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 358. 63.

## HABITAT

in Louisiana.

W.

## BIRDS

RELATED TO THE FLYCATCHERS, THE MOUCHE-  
ROLLES, AND THE TYRANTS.

THE KINKI-MANOU of  
MADAGASCAR\*.

THIS bird is distinguished from the flycatchers by its size, being almost as large as a shrike; but it resembles them in many other characters; though a contiguous species, therefore, it cannot be included among them, but evinces that our artificial divisions correspond not to the discriminating lines traced by

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA CANA. *M. cinerea*, capite saturatiore, rectricibus nigris, duabus extimis apice cinerascentibus, remigibus intus albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 472. No. 16.

MUSCICAPA CANA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 940.

MUSCICAPA MADAGASCARIENSIS CINEREA MAJOR.—*Bris.* ii. p. 389. 17. t. 37. f. 1.

LE KINKI-MANOU.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 245.

LE GRAND GOBE-MOUCHE CENDRE de MADAGASCAR.—*Pl. Enl.* 541.

ASH-COLOURED FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 332. 13.

## HABITAT

in Madagascaria.—8½ pollices longa.

W.

nature. The Kinki-Manou is eight inches and a half long, and is bulky; its head is black; and that colour extends like a round hood on the top of its neck and under its bill; the upper part of its body is cinereous, and the under part ash-blue; the bill is slightly hooked at the tip, and not so strong as that of the shrike, nor even so strong as that of the little tyrant; a few short bristles rise from the corner of the bill; the legs are of a lead-colour, and thick and strong\*.

\* Virey says, this species inhabits the Cape of Good Hope. w

## THE RED FLYCATCHER\*.

I AM of opinion that the *Red Flycatcher* of Catesby, and the *Red Carolina Flycatcher* of Brisson, cannot be referred to the genus of the Flycatchers, or that of the moucherolles; for though its size, the length of its tail, and even its mode of life, seem to be analogous, its bill is thick, large, and yellowish, which rather points its relation to the yellow bunting. We shall therefore regard it as an anomalous species. It is thus described by Catesby: "It is about the bulk of a sparrow; it has large black eyes; its bill is thick, strong, and yellowish: the whole of the bird is of a fine red, except

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

TANAGRA ÆSTIVA. T. rubra, rostro flavescente, remigibus intus fuscis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i. p. 422. No. 7.

TANAGRA ÆSTIVA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 889.

MUSCICAPA RUBRA.—*Lin. Syst.* i. p. 320. 8.

— CAROLINENSIS RUBRA.—*Bris.* ii. p. 432. 37.

LE PRENEUR de MOUCHES ROUGE.—*Buff. par. Sonn.* 1. p. 248.

SUMMER RED-BIRD.—*Cates. Car.* i. t. 56.—*Edw.* t. 239,

SUMMER TANAGER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 236.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 220. 6.

### HABITAT

in Carolina, Virginia.—6½ pollices longa.

W.



the inner fringes of the wing-quills, which are brown; but those fringes are not seen unless the wings are spread; it is a bird of passage, and leaves Carolina and Virginia in the winter; the female is brown, with a yellow shade." Edwards also describes it, and admits, that it has the bill of the granivorous class, only *longer*. I think, adds he, that Catesby found that these birds feed upon flies, since he gives the Latin appellation of *Muscicapa Rubra*.

## THE DRONGO\*.

THOUGH nomenclators have classed this bird with the flycatchers, it appears to differ widely both from these and from the moucherolles; we have therefore separated it entirely, and assigned it the name of *Drongo*, which it receives in Madagascar. Its characters are: 1. Its bulk, being larger than the blackbird, and thicker: 2. The tuft on the origin of the bill: 3. Its bill is not so flat: 4. The tarsus and toes are very strong. All its plumage is black, varying with green; directly under the root of the upper mandible some long and very narrow

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

LANIUS FORFICATUS. L. cauda forficata, crista frontali erecta, corpore nigro viridante.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* i, p. 66.

No. 1.

LANIUS FORFICATUS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 297.

MUSCİCAPA MADAGASCARIENSIS NIGRA MAJOR CRISTATA.—*Bris.* ii, p. 388. 16. t. 37. f. 4,

LE GOBE-MOUCHE HUPPE' de MALABAR, DRONGO.—*Pl. Enl.* 189.

LE DRONGO.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 251. pl. 132. f. 2.

FORKED-TAILED SHRIKE.—*Lath. Syn.* i, p. 158. 1.

## HABITAT .

ad Caput B. Spei, Madagascaria, China.—10 pollices longus.  
W.

feathers rise erect to the height of an inch and eight lines; they bend forward and make a very odd sort of crest; the two outer quills of the tail project an inch and seven lines beyond the two middle ones; the others are of an intermediate length, and diverge, which occasions the tail to be very forked. Commerson assures us, that the Drongo has a pleasant warble, which he compares to the song of the nightingale; and this makes a wide difference from the tyrants, which have all shrill cries, and are besides natives of America. This Drongo was brought from Madagascar by Poivre; it has also come from the Cape of Good Hope, and from China. We have remarked that the crest is wanting in some specimens, and we have no doubt that the bird sent to the royal cabinet under the name of *the Forked-tail Flycatcher of China* belongs to this species, and is perhaps a female; the resemblance, if we except the crest, being entire between this Chinese bird and the Drongo.

There is also a kind of Drongo found on the Malabar coast, whence it was sent by Sonnerat: it is rather larger than that of Madagascar, or that of China; its plumage is wholly black, but its bill is stronger and thicker; it has not the crest; and what the most distinguishes it are, the two long shafts which project from the ends of the two outer-quills of the tail; they are almost bare for six inches of their length, and have webs near their extremities

as at their origin. We are unacquainted with the habits of this bird of Malabar; but they are probably the same as those of the Drongo of Madagascar, since the external characters are alike in both \* †.

\* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**LANIUS MALABARICUS.** L. caeruleo niger, remigibus caudaque nigris, rectricibus extimis utrinque longissimis denudatis, apice latere exteriori pennatis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn. i. p. 66. No. 2.*

**LE GOBBE-MOUCHE de MALABAR.**—*Son. Voy. Ind. ii. t. 111.*

**LE DRONGO de MALABAR.**—*Buff. par Sonn. l. p. 253.*

**MALABAR SHRIKE.**—*Lath. Syn. Sup. p. 56. t. 108.*

HABITAT

in Malabar.—17½ pollices longus.

W.

† The Drongos are not always crested, and it seems that the females want this ornament.

W.

## THE PIAUHAU

THE Piauhaus is larger than any of the tyrants, and is therefore excluded from the flycatchers; indeed, except in its bill, it bears not the least analogy to these, and seems to occupy a detached place in the order of nature.

It is eleven inches long, and is larger than the missel thrush. All its plumage is deep black, except a deep purple spot that covers the throat in the male, but is wanting in the female; the wings, when closed, extend as far as the end of the tail; the bill is sixteen lines long, and eight broad at the base, very

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

MUSCICAPA RUBRICOLLIS. *M. nigra*, jugulo macula speciosa purpureo-coccinea.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 489. No. 87.

MUSCICAPA RUBRICOLLIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 933.

———— CAYANENSIS NIGRA MAJOR.—*Bris.* ii. p. 386. t. 38. f. 3.

LE GRAND GOBE-MOUCHE NOIR de CAYENNE.—*Pl. Enl.* 381.

LE PIAUHAU.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 254.

PURPLE-THROATED FLYCATCHER.—*Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 365. 77.

### HABITAT

in Cayana.—12 pollices longa.

W.

flat, and shaped almost like an isosceles triangle, with a small hook at the point.

These birds move in flocks, and commonly precede the toucans, and always uttering the shrill cry *piauhau*: it is said that they feed upon fruits like the toucans; but probably they also eat the winged insects, for the catching of which nature seems to have fashioned their bill. They are very lively, and almost in continual motion. They reside only in the woods like the toucans, and generally haunt the same spots.

Brisson asks if the jacapu of Marcgrave be not the same with the Piauhau\*? We may answer that it is not. The jacapu of Marcgrave has indeed a black plumage, with only a purple, or rather a red spot under its throat; but, at the same time, *its tail is long, its wing is short, and its size is that of a lark*; these characters do not apply to the Piauhau.

Thus the kinki-manou and the drongo of Madagascar, the red flycatcher of Virginia and the Piauhau of Cayenne, are all contiguous species, but essentially different from those of the flycatchers, the *moucherolles*, and the tyrants.

\* "Jacapu, a bird of the bulk of a lark; its tail extended; its legs short and black; its nails sharp on the four toes; its bill somewhat curved and black, half an inch long; its whole body is clothed with black shining feathers; but under the throat, spots of vermilion are mixed with this black."

## THE SKYLARK

THIS bird, which is now widely diffused, seems to have been a more ancient inhabitant

### ALAUDA.

#### CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* cylindrico-subulatum, rectum, recta protensum ;  
mandibulis æqualibus, basi deorsum dehiscentibus.

*Lingua* bifida.

*Unguis* posticus rectior, digito longior.

#### CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA ARVENSIS. A. nigricante griseo-rufescente et albido varia, subtus rufo-alba, reatricibus extimis duabus extrorsum longitudinaliter albis, intermediis interiori latere ferrugineis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 491. No. 1.

ALAUDA ARVENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 791.

—— VULGARIS.—*Raii Syn.* p. 69. A. 1.—*Will.* p. 149. t. 40.—*Bris.* iii. p. 335. 1.

L'ALOUETTE.—*Buff. Pl.' Enl.* 363. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* 1. p. 257. pl. 133. f. 2.

SKYLARK, or FIELD-LARK †.—*Br. Zool.* i. No. 138.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 394. A.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 203.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 368. 1.—*Bew. Birds,* i. p. 183.

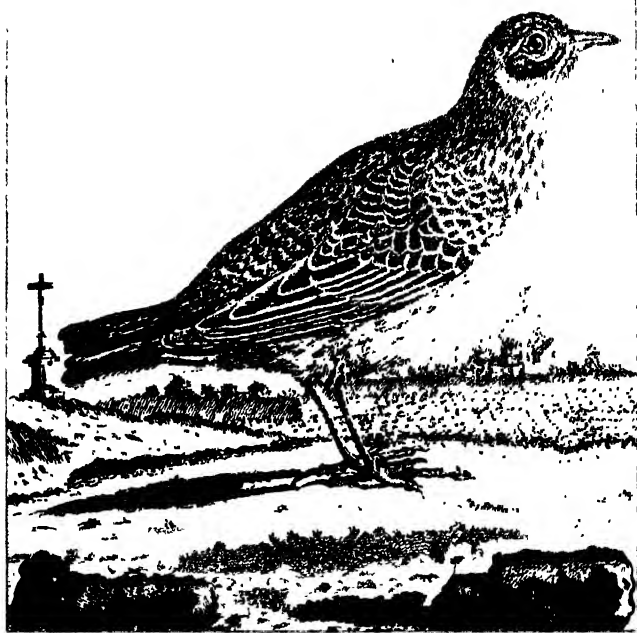
#### HABITAT

in Europa, Asia, Africa.—7 pollices et ultra longa.—In Anglia frequens. W.

† The ancient Greek name, Κορυδαίος, or Κορυδαλος, is de-







THE SKY-LARK.

of Gaul than of Italy; for its Latin name, *Alauda*, is, according to the best-informed Roman authors, of Gaulish origin\*.

The Greeks were acquainted with two species of larks: the one wore a tuft on its head, and for that reason termed Κορυδος or Κορυδαλος,

rived from κορυς, a helmet, on account of its crest: it had the epithets, χαμαιζηλος, ωδικος, αγλαιος, and ευπλεος; i. e. attached to the ground, excelling in song, distinguished in plumage, and of vigorous wing.

The Latin name, *Alauda*, is, according to Pliny, Suetonius, and Varro, of Gaulish extraction. Hence the present French term *Alouette*

In Italian, it is called *Lodola*, *Petronella*, *Allodola*, *Alodetta*.

In Spanish, *Eugniada*.

In old Saxon, *Leefwerc* or *Leeurich*.

In modern German, *Heid-lerche*, *Sang-lerche*, *Himmel-lerche*, *Korn-lerche*, *Grosse-lerche*, *Field-lerche*, &c. i. e. *Heath-lark*, *Song-lark*, *Sky-lark*, *Corn-lark*, *Great-lark*, and *Field-lark*, &c.

In Dutch, *Leeurich*:—in Sweden, *Laerka*.

In old and provincial English, *Wild-lark*, *Heuth-lark*, and *Laverock*.

\* The Celtic name is *Alaud*; whence *Aloue*, and afterwards *Alouette*, the present French name. Probably the soldiers of the legion styled "*Alauda*" wore on their helmet a tuft something like that of the Skylark. Schwenckfeld and Klein, who seem to have never read Pliny, derive *Alauda* from *laus*, a *laude*; because, according to the former, this bird rises seven times a day to sing praises to God. It is admitted that all creatures attest the existence and glory of their Maker: but to suppose the small birds have ~~anted~~ <sup>anted</sup> and to ground this inference on the ~~re~~ <sup>re</sup> resemblance of words in two different languages, is a very puerile idea.

which the Latins render *Galerita* or *Cassita*; the other, which wanted the tuft, is the subject of this article \*. Willughby is the only author that I know, who mentions that the latter sometimes bristles the feathers on its head so as to form an occasional crest, and I have myself ascertained this fact in regard to the male; and thus it is also entitled to the epithet *Galerita*. The Germans call it *Lerche*, which in many provinces is pronounced *leriche*, and is obviously intended to imitate its notes †. The honourable Daines Barrington reckons it among the best of the singing ‡ larks; and as it copies the warble of every other bird §, he terms it a mocking bird: but if it lays no claim to originality of music, the delicacy and flexibility of its organs of voice smooth and embellish whatever it imitates.

In the state of freedom, it commences its song early in the spring, which is its season of love, and continues to warble during the whole of the summer. It is heard most in the morn-

\* Aristotle, Hist. Anim. lib. ix. 25.

† “ It prolongs its *tirile, tirile, its tirile*.”—Linnæus, *Systema*.

‡ “ Its song is delightful for its variety; is full of swells and falls.”—OLINA.

§ Frisch.—Schwenckfeld pretends that it sings better than the crested lark: others prefer the warble of the latter; Kœmpfer that of the Japanese lark, which is perhaps not of the same species.—See particularly Barrington's paper in the Philosophical Transactions for 1773, vol. lxxiii. part 2.

ing and evening, and least in the middle of the day\*. It is one of those few birds which chant on wing: the higher it mounts, the more it strains its voice; and when it soars beyond the range of our sight, its music still distinctly strikes our ear. Must we impute this swell to the joyous elevation of its spirits, or the throbbing emotions of love; or must we regard it as a sort of call, the signal of common danger? The rapacious tribes, trusting to their strength, and meditating deeds of carnage, proceed with cautious and dark silence; the little harmless birds have nothing to depend on but their numbers; and their clamorous notes may summon the stragglers together, and at least inspire a pleasing, though often a vain confidence.—The Skylark seldom sings on the ground; where, however, it constantly remains, except when it flies, for it never perches on trees. It may be reckoned among the pulverent birds†; and if it be kept in the cage, we must be careful to lay a bed of sand in a corner, that it may welter at its ease, and procure some relief of the vermin which torment it.

It has been fabled, that these birds have an antipathy to certain constellations; to *Arcturus*, for instance; and that they were silent when

\* ALDROVANDUS.—This may be the case in the hot climates of Italy and Greece; but in our temperate climates, the skylark is not observed to pause at noon.

† Aristotle, Hist. Anim. lib. ix. 49.

that star rises heliacally\*. This seems to mark the time of moulting.

I need not stop to describe a bird so well known: I shall only observe, that the principal characters are these: the middle toe is closely connected, by the first phalanx, to the outermost on each foot; the nail of the hind toe is very long and almost straight, the anterior nails very short, and slightly curved; the bill not weak, though awl-shaped; the tongue broad, hard, and forked; the nostrils round, and half bare; the stomach fleshy, and large in proportion to the size of the bird; the liver divided into two very unequal lobes, the left one apparently checked in its growth by the pressure of the stomach; the intestinal tube is nine inches long, and two very small *cæca* communicate with it; there is a gall-bladder. The plumage is of a dingy cast; the tail contains twelve quills, and the wings eighteen, of which the middle-sized ones are cut almost square and notched, a character common to all the larks †. I shall add, that the males are rather browner than the females ‡; that they have a black collar, and that they have more white on the tail §; that they

\* Anton. Miraldus apud Aldrovandum.

† Brisson and Willughby.

‡ Frisch and Aldrovandus.—I believe that the larks of Beauce, which are sold at Paris, are browner than those of Burgundy. Some individuals are more or less of a rust-colour, and have more or less of the wing-quills edged with that colour.

§ Albin.

have a bolder aspect, and are rather larger, though they never weigh more than two ounces; and lastly, that, as in almost all other species, they exclusively possess the talent of song. Olinia seems to suppose that their hind-nail is longer \*; but I suspect, with Klein, that this depends as much upon the age as upon the sex.

In the opening of the vernal season, the male feels the ardour of love; he mounts into the air, warbling his impassioned strains; and ranges over an extent proportioned to the number of females, till he descries his favourite, and instantly he darts to the ground, and consummates the union. The impregnated female soon proceeds to form her nest; she places it between two clods of earth, and lines it with herbs and dry roots †, and is equally careful in concealing as in building it: accordingly few nests of Skylarks are found, in comparison with the number of these birds ‡. Each female lays four or five eggs, which are greyish, with brown spots; she sits only fifteen days at most, and employs still less time in training and educating her young. This expedition has often deceived persons who intended to rob the nestlings, and Aldrovandus among the rest §. The same cir-

\* Gesner affirms, that he saw one of these nails about two inches long; but he does not tell us whether the bird was a cock or a hen.

† Fowlers say, that the lark's nest is better constructed than that of partridges and quails.

‡ Description of 300 Animals.

§ Tom. ii. p. 834.

cumstance renders probable what Aldrovandus and Olina assert, that she has three hatches in the year; the first, in the beginning of May; the second, in the month of July; and the last in the month of August: but if this take place, it must be in the warm countries, where incubation is more forward, where the young are sooner emancipated, and where the mother is soon in a condition to renew her loves. In fact, Aldrovandus and Olina wrote in the climate of Italy; but Frisch, whose observations apply to Germany, mentions only two hatches annually; and Schwenckfeld takes notice of one only in Silesia.

The young keep at a little distance from each other: for the mother does not always gather them under her wings. She flutters over their heads, watches them with a truly maternal affection, directing their motions, anticipating their wants, and guarding them from danger.

The instinctive warmth of attachment which the female Skylark bears to her young often discovers itself at a very early period; and even before she is capable of discharging the functions of a mother, which might be supposed to precede, in the order of nature, the maternal solicitude. A young hen-bird was brought to me in the month of May, which was not able to feed without assistance; I caused it to be educated, and it was hardly fledged when I received, from another place, a nest of three or four callow Skylarks. She took a strong liking

to these new-comers, which were scarcely younger than herself; she tended them night and day, cherished them beneath her wings, and fed with them with her bill. Nothing could divert her tender offices: if the young were torn from her, she flew back to them as soon as she was liberated, and would not think of effecting her own escape, which she might have done a hundred times. Her affection grew upon her; she neglected food and drink; she now required the same support as her adopted offspring, and expired at last, consumed with maternal anxiety. None of the young ones survived her; they died one after another: so essential were her cares, which were equally tender and judicious.

The most common food of the young Skylarks is worms, caterpillars, ants' eggs, and even grasshoppers; which has justly procured them much regard in countries subject to the ravages of these destructive insects\*. After they are grown up, they live chiefly on seeds, herbage, and, in short, on all vegetable substances.

It is said, that those destined for song should be caught in October or November, the males being preferred as much as possible†; and when they are furious and untractable, they must be pinioned, lest they dart with too great violence against the roof of the cage, and break their skull. They are easily tamed, and become

\* Plutarch *de Iside*.

† Albin.



so familiar, that they will eat off the table, and even alight on the hand; but they cannot cling by the toes, on account of the form of the hind toe, which is too long and straight. This is undoubtedly the reason why they never perch on trees.—It is easy to infer, that there ought to be no bars laid across their cage.

In Flanders, the young ones are fed with moistened poppy-seeds; and after they can eat without assistance, they are presented with crumbs of bread, likewise soaked: but when they begin to sing, they are given sheeps' and calves' hearts hashed with hard eggs\*; and to this are added, wheat, spelt, and oats previously cleaned, millet, linseed, and the seeds of poppy and hemp, the whole being steeped in milk†. Frisch tells us, that when they subsist on bruised hemp-seed alone, their plumage is apt to turn black. It is also said, that mustard-seed is improper food for them; but except this, they may be fed with every other sort of farinaceous seed, and even every thing used at our tables, and become in some degree domestic birds. According to Frisch, they have a singular instinct of tasting with their tongue, before they venture to swallow.—They may be taught to sing, and to heighten their native warble with all the embellishments which our music can bestow. Some cock larks, after

\* Albin.

† Olina.—Description of 300 Animals.—Frisch.

hearing a tune whistled with the pipe, have caught the whole, and repeated it more agreeably than any linnet or canary.—Those which remain in the wild state inhabit, during the summer, the highest and driest situations ; and in winter they descend into the plains, and assemble in numerous flocks. In that season they are very fat, for then they are almost always on the ground, and perpetually feeding. In summer, on the contrary, they are very lean : then they always go in pairs, eat sparingly, sing incessantly, and never alight but to hold the dalliance of love. During severe weather, particularly when much snow has fallen, they resort to the margins of the springs, where the frost does not prevail ; in such seasons, they crop the grass, and are even obliged to seek their food among the horse-dung which is dropt on the high-roads : yet, notwithstanding, they are still fatter than in any part of the summer.

They mount in the air almost perpendicularly, and by successive springs, and hover at a vast height. They descend to the ground, on the contrary, by an oblique sweep, unless they are threatened by a ravenous bird, or attracted by a beloved mate, and in these cases they drop like a stone\*.

It is easy to conceive, that these small birds, which soar so lofty, may be carried sometimes far to sea by a gust of wind, or even be wafted

across the ocean. "As soon as we approach the European coasts," says Father Dutertre, "we begin to see birds of prey, larks, and goldfinches, which are driven off from the land, and are glad to rest on the masts and cordage of the vessels \*." Hence Sir Hans Sloane saw them forty miles at sea, and the Count Marsigli met with them on the Mediterranean †. It is even probable, that those which are found in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and other parts of America, have been driven thither the same way. The Chevalier des Mazis informs me, that the larks pass the island of Malta in the month of November; and though he does not specify the particular kinds, the skylark is probably one of them: for Lottinger has observed, that a considerable flight of skylarks into Lorraine ceases exactly at this time; and that as those bred in the country join the train of their visitors, few stay behind; but that shortly after, the usual numbers again appear, whether that others succeed to their place, or that they return back, which is the more probable supposition. However, it is certain that they do not entirely migrate, since they are found at all seasons in our province; and considerable numbers of

\* Hist. des Antilles, t. ii. p. 55.

† Sornini says, that it is not uncommon to meet with larks on the Mediterranean about the end of autumn. They sometimes strike against the ships, and, when the wind is contrary, great numbers perish in the sea. W.

them are caught in Beauce, Picardy, and many other parts, during winter. It is indeed the general opinion, in these places, that they are not birds of passage. If they be absent for a few days during the excessive cold weather, especially after long-continued snow, it is often because they retire under some rock or some sheltered cave\*, as I have already said they haunt the perennial springs. Frequently it happens that they suddenly disappear in the spring, when the mild gleams which drew them from their retreats are succeeded by frosts or storms that drive them back. This temporary concealment of the lark was known to Aristotle†, and Klein assures us that he ascertained the fact from his own experience‡.

\* In the part of Bugey situated at the foot of the mountains between the Rhône and the Cain, an innumerable multitude of skylarks are often seen about the end of October, or the beginning of November, for the space of a fortnight. During the intense cold which prevailed the last fortnight of January 1776, there appeared, in the neighbourhood of Pont-de-Beauvoisin, such prodigious quantities of skylarks, that one person with a pole killed as many as would load two mules. They took shelter in the houses, and were excessively lean. It is evident from these two cases, that the larks did not quit their ordinary residence for want of food; but still we cannot absolutely infer that they are not birds of passage. Thevenot says, that the larks appear in Egypt in the month of September, and continue there till the end of the year.—*Voyage du Levant*, t. i. p. 498.

† Hist. Anim. lib. viii. 16.—“The stork hides itself, and the blackbird, and the turtle, and the lark.”

‡ P. 181.

This bird is found in all the inhabited parts of both continents, and as far as the Cape of Good Hope, according to Kolben \*. It could even subsist amidst uncultivated tracts over-spread with heath and junipers; for it is exceedingly fond of these shrubs †, which shelter itself and its infant brood from the attacks of the birds of prey. If the skylark accommodates itself with such facility to every situation and every climate, it seems rather singular that the bird is not found in the Gold-coast, according to Villault, nor even in Andalusia, if we credit Averroes ‡.

Every person knows the various contrivances for catching larks; the noose, the trammel, the springe, the draw-net, &c.; but the engine most commonly employed, is what is called the *lark-net*. A cool morning, gladdened by a bright sun, is chosen for the sport; a mirror that turns freely on its pivots is provided, and a pair of skylarks are used as calls; for it is impossible to imitate their song so closely as to deceive

\* Hist. Gén. des Voyages, t. iv. p. 243.

† Turner and Longolius in Gesner.

‡ Bruce says, that he found larks in the dry plains of Masnah, on the coast of Abyssinia bathed by the Red Sea, but that they are silent till the November rains begin; then they rise out of sight, and sing during the greatest heat of the day. Mr. Bruce also met with the lark in the desert of Tchama, but it did not sing, and this was probably, he thinks, owing to the want of rain. The heat of climate and the dryness of the soil do not alter its warble, which, in those burning countries, is just the same as in Europe. W.

them, and hence they listen to no artificial substitute. But they seem the most attracted by the mirror; not indeed to admire their image, as some have supposed, on account of the instinct which they have in common with almost all the other birds which are capable of being tamed, viz. that of singing with redoubled vivacity and emulation before a glass: their curiosity is raised by the dazzling glare which beams from every quarter as the mirror turns round; they perhaps mistake it for the undulating surface of the crystal fountain, which in that season has to them its peculiar charms. Accordingly great numbers are caught every winter near the tepid springs, which they haunt. But the most successful sport is, that with lime-twigs, as practised in French Lorraine\*, and in other parts; and which, because it is little known, I shall particularly describe. For this purpose, 1500 or 2000 willow-rods of about three feet ten inches long are provided, very straight, or at least well smoothed; these are sharpened at one of the ends, and even slightly burnt, and the space of about a foot from the other end is spread with bird-lime. The stakes are planted in parallel rows, in a proper situation, commonly in fallow-ground, that is likely to harbour a sufficient

\* M. de Sonnini has long practised this mode of fowling in his estate of Manoncour in Lorraine. The late king Stanislaus was fond of it, and often honoured it with his presence.

number of larks to defray the expense, which is considerable. The rows ought to be as wide as to admit a person to pass easily between them; and each stake should be a foot distant from the next one, and placed opposite to the interval in the adjacent row. The art consists in planting these with great regularity, and quite perpendicular, and so that they shall retain their position as long as they are not touched, but yet so ticklish that they shall fall the instant a lark brushes against them in its flight.

After all these limed-rods are planted, an oblong square is traced, which presents one of its sides to the ground where the larks are lodged; and at each corner a flag is fixed, which serves the fowlers as a mark, and sometimes as a signal for their manœuvres. The number of persons employed must be proportioned to the extent of the field.—About four or five o'clock in the afternoon, according as the autumn is more or less advanced, the company divides into two equal detachments, each conducted by an intelligent leader, who is likewise subject to the direction of the commander-in-chief, whose station is in the centre. The one detachment assembles at the flag on the right, the other at the one on the left; and each observing the most profound silence, extends itself in an arch, so that they meet at the distance of half a league from the front, and then form one rank, which gradually closes as it advances to the rods, and

continually drives the larks before it. About sun-set, the middle of the line ought not to be farther than two or three hundred paces from the front; and this is the time when they *charge*\*; that is, they proceed cautiously, stop, or lie flat on the ground, rise up or push forward, according to the commands of their leader: and if all these manœuvres are well executed and properly directed, the greatest part of the larks inclosed by the troop, and which now mount no higher than three or four feet, rush forward, and are caught among the lured rods; and falling to the ground with these, they can be picked up by the hand. If it is not too late, a second line is made on the opposite side, at the distance of fifty paces, which drives back the larks that had escaped; and is called *tacking about*†. The idle spectators are detained a little behind the flags, to avoid confusion.

An hundred dozen of larks, or more are sometimes caught in one of these sweeps, and it is reckoned very bad sport when only twenty-five dozen are got. Coveys of partridges, and even owls, are also led sometimes into the snare; but such accidents are regarded as vexatious, since they scare away the larks. A hare likewise which happens to cross the field, or any sudden or uncommon noise, spoils the sport.

Many of the skylarks are also destroyed in

\* In French, *Donne*. † In French, *Revenir*.



summer by the voracious tribes ; for they are the ordinary prey of even the smallest of these : and the cuckoo, which has no nest of its own, frequently substitutes its eggs in the place of theirs \*. Yet, notwithstanding the havoc which is made among them, they are extremely numerous ; which proves their great fecundity, and adds to the probability of the assertion, that they have three hatches annually. For so small an animal, the skylark is long-lived ; the term being ten years, according to Oliha ; twelve, according to others ; twenty-two, according to the account of a person of veracity ; and even twenty-four, if we believe Rzacynski.

The ancients pretended that the flesh of the lark, boiled, roasted, or even burnt and reduced to ashes, was a sort of specific in the colic: On the contrary, some modern observations show that it often occasions that disorder, and Linnaeus judges it improper food for persons afflicted with gravelly complaints. The most probable account is, that this meat is very wholesome and pleasant when fat ; and that the pains in the stomach, or gripes in the bowels, which are sometimes felt after eating, are owing to some portions of their small bones that have been inadvertently swallowed, and which are very minute and very sharp. The weight of

† “ The cuckoo breeds in strangers’ nests, especially in those of the ring-pigeon, of the petty-chaps, and of the ground-lark.”—*Hist. Nat. Anim.* lib. ix. 24.

the bird varies, according to the quantity of the fat, from seven or eight gros to ten or twelve.

Total length, about seven inches; the bill, six or seven lines; the hind nail straight, and measures ten lines; the alar extent, twelve or thirteen inches; the tail, two inches and three quarters, a little forked, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings by twelve lines\*.

## VARIETIES OF THE SKYLARK.

I. The WHITE SKYLARK †. Brisson and Frisch properly consider this as a variety of the foregoing species. In fact, it is a true skylark, which, according to Frisch, comes from the north, like the white sparrow and stare, the white swallow and petty-chaps, &c. in all which the plumage retains the impression of their natal climate. Klein rejects this opinion, because at Dantzic, which is situated farther north than the countries where white larks

\* Mr. Pennant tells us, that in the neighbourhood of Dunstable four thousand dozens of larks are usually caught for the London market, between the fourteenth of September and the twenty-fifth of February. In fine weather, the lark-ers use clap-nets with bits of mirror and a decoy: at other times, they employ a trammel-net and a pointer dog.

† *Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 369. Var. A.

sometimes appear, not one has been found in the course of half a century. If I were to decide this point, I should say, that the assertion of Frisch, that all the white larks arrive from the boreal tracts, is too general, and that the objection which Klein makes is by no means conclusive. In fact, observations evince that white larks are found in other countries besides those of the north; but it is obvious that from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, they could more easily enter the western part of Germany, which is separated from these countries by only a narrow sea, than cross the Baltic, and reach the mouth of the Vistula and the coasts of Prussia. —At any rate, besides the white larks sometimes found near Berlin, according to Frisch, they are often seen in the vicinity of Hildesheim in Lower Saxony. They are seldom of a snowy white; the subject examined by Brisson was tinged with yellow; but the bill, the feet, and the nails, were entirely white.—At the very time when I was writing this article, a white lark was brought to me, which was shot under the walls of the little town where I live: the crown of the head and some parts of the body were of the ordinary colour; the rest of the upper surface, including the tail and the wings, was variegated with brown and white; most of the plumage and even the quills were edged with white; the under part of the body was white, speckled with brown, especially the fore-

part, and the right side; the lower mandible whiter than the upper, and the feet of a dirty-white, variegated with brown. This subject seemed to form the intermediate shade between the common lark and that which is of a pure white.

I have since seen another lark whose plumage was perfectly white, except on the head, where there were some traces of a grey but half effaced. It was found in the neighbourhood of Montbard. It is not likely that either this or the other lark came from the northern shores of the Baltic.

II. The BLACK SKYLARK\*. I join Brisson in considering this as a variety of the common skylark; whether we are to impute it to the bird's feeding on hemp-seed, or to any other cause. The subject which I have directed to be engraved was of a rufous-brown at the rise of the back, and its feet of a light brown.

Albin, who saw and described this bird from nature, represents it entirely of a dull brown and reddish, verging to black; except, however, the back of the head, which is of a dun-yellow, and below the belly, where there are some feathers edged with white; the feet, the toes, and the nails, were of a dirty-yellow. The subject from which Albin formed his descrip-

\* *Lath. Syn.* iv, p. 370.

tion was caught with a net, in a meadow, near Highgate; and it appears that there such birds are seldom met with.

Mauduit assures me, that he saw a lark which was perfectly black, and had been caught in the plain of Mont-rouge, near Paris.

## THE RUFOUS-BACKED LARK\*.

HAD not this bird been brought by Commer-  
son from Buenos-Ayres ; were it not much  
smaller than our common skylark, and a native  
of a very different climate, the resemblance of  
its plumage is so striking that we could not  
help considering it as only a variety of the pre-  
ceding species. The head, the bill, the feet, the  
throat, the fore-part of the neck, and all the  
under surface of the body, are of a blackish-  
brown ; the quills of the wings and of the tail  
are of a somewhat lighter shade ; the outermost  
of these last are edged with rufous ; the hind  
part of the tail, the back, and the shoulders,  
are of an orange-fulvous ; the small and mid-

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**ALAUDA FULVA.** *A. fusco-nigricans*, cervice dorso scapu-  
laribusque rufo-aurantiis, alis caudaque obscuris.—*Lath.*  
*Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 492. No. 2.

**ALAUDA RUF.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 792.

**L'ALOUETTE NOIRE À DOS FAUVE.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 294.  
————— *d'ENCENADA.*—*Pl. Enl.* 738. f. 2.

**RUFOUS-BACKED LARK.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 371. 2.

### HABITAT

in Bonaria.—vix 5 pollices longa.

W.

the coverts of the wings blackish, edged also with fulvous.

Total length, rather less than five inches ; the bill, six or seven lines, the edges of the lower mandible being a little scalloped near the tip ; the *tarsus*, five lines ; the hind toe, two lines and a half, and its nail four lines, slightly bent back ; the tail, eighteen lines, somewhat forked, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings by seven or eight lines. Upon a close view, we perceive that its dimensions do not differ more than those of the preceding variety.







THE WOOD - LARK .

## THE WOODLARK\*

I CONCEIVE this bird to differ so much from the common lark as to constitute a distinct species. It is distinguished by its size and its general form, being shorter, rounder, and much smaller, not weighing more than an ounce : by its plumage, whose colours are more dilute, less mixed with white, and its whitish crown is more conspicuous than in the ordinary species : by the dimensions, too, of its wing-quill's, the first and outermost being half an inch shorter

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA ARBOREA. *A. varia*, capite vitta annulari alba cincto.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 492. No. 3.

ALAUDA ARBOREA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 795.—*Raii Syn.* p. 69.

*A. 2.*—*Will.* p. 149. t. 40.—*Bris.* iii. p. 340. t. 20. f. 1.

L'ALOUETTE DE BOIS, ou LE CUJELIER.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 680. f. 2.

LE CUJELIER.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 296. pl. 133. f. 1.

WOODLARK.—*Br. Zool.* No. 137. *Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 395. B.—

*Will. (Angl.)* p. 204.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 371. 3.—*Bew. Birds,* t. p. 189.

### HABITAT

In Europe, Asia.

† In Italian, *Tottavilla* : in Danish, *Skov-lerke* : in Norwegian, *Heede-lerke*, *Lyng-lerke* : in German, *Lud-lercke*, *Wald-lerche*.

than the rest. It is discriminated from the skylark also by its habits : it perches on trees, though only, indeed, on the thick branches, because the length of its hind toe, or rather the projection and slight curvature of the nail, will not permit it to cling to the twigs : it haunts the uncultivated tracts near copses, or even the verge of young copses ; and hence the name of *wood-lark*, though it never penetrates into the woods. Its song, too, resembles more the warble of the nightingale than that of the skylark \* ; and is heard not only in the day, but, like the former, in the night ; both when it flutters on the wing and when it sits on a bough. Hebert observes, that the fifers of the Swiss guards imitate well its notes ; hence I conclude, that this bird is common among the mountains of Switzerland †, as in those of Bugey. Its fecundity is inferior to that of the skylark ; for, though it also lays four or five eggs, and is not so much destroyed, because smaller and less valued, yet its numbers are not so great ‡. It breeds earlier, since its young are sometimes flown in the middle of March §, whereas the common lark does not hatch before the month of May. It is, besides, more delicate ; for, according to Albin, it is impossible

\* Olin and Albin.

† I am informed that it actually frequents the highest meadows in Switzerland.

‡ *British Zoology*.

§ Albin.

to rear the young taken out of the nest. But this holds only in regard to England, and other similar or colder climates; and Olinā positively asserts, that in Italy the young are removed from the nest, and raised at first like the nightingale\*, and afterwards fed upon panic and millet.

In every other property the Woodlark bears a close analogy to the skylark. It mounts high, warbling its notes, and hovers in the air: it flies in flocks during the winter colds: it builds its nest on the ground, and conceals it under a turf: it lives ten or twelve years: it feeds on beetles, caterpillars, and seeds: its tongue is forked; its stomach muscular and fleshy: and it has no craw, but a moderate dilatation of the lower part of the *œsophagus*: its *cæca* are very small †.

Olinā remarks that, in the male, the crown of the head is darker than in the female, and its hind nail longer. He might have also added, that its breast is more spotted, and its great wing-quills edged with olive, while in the female they are bordered with grey. He subjoins, that the Woodlark is caught in the same manner as the skylark, which is true; but he pretends that this species is hardly known out of the Pope's territories, which is justly controverted by the best-informed modern na-

\* Willughby remarks, that the song of the Woodlark resembles that of the blackbird.

† Willughby.

turalists. In fact, it would seem that the Woodlark is not confined to any one country: it is found in Sweden\* and Italy †, and is probably spread through the intervening countries, and consequently scattered over the greatest part of Europe‡.—The Woodlark is pretty fat in autumn, and is then excellent meat.

Albin says, that there are three seasons for catching the Woodlarks. The first is in the summer, when the small branchers begin to chirp, before they undergo the moulting.—The second is in the month of September, when they fly in flocks, and roam from one country to another, roving over the pasture-grounds, and perching on trees near lime-kilns§. At this time the young birds change their plumage, and are no longer to be distinguished from the old ones.—The third season, and the most favourable for catching the Woodlarks, begins with the month of January||, and lasts till the end of February, when they separate to pair. The young birds which are then caught,

\* Linnæus.    † Olina.    ‡ Linnæus.    § Kramer.

¶ M. Hebert killed these birds during winter in Brie, in Picardy, and in Burgundy: he remarked that, during this season, they are found on the ground in the plains, that they are pretty common in Bugey, and still more so in Burgundy. On the other hand, M. Lottinger asserts that they arrive about the end of February, and retire in the beginning of October. But these opposite accounts might be reconciled, if of these larks, as of the common sort, some are migratory and others stationary.

make generally the best singers : they chirp a few days after, and with a clearer tone than those caught at any other season.

Total length, six inches; the bill, seven lines; the alar extent, nine inches (ten, according to Lottinger); the tail, two inches and a quarter, rather forked, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeding the wing by thirteen lines\*.

\* This bird, according to Pennant, is found in Russia, in Siberia, and even as far as Kamtschatka. Ellis saw it also in the island of Madeira.

W.

## THE TITLARK.\*

BELON and Olinia mention this as the smallest of all the larks; but they were unacquainted with the grasshopper-lark, of which we shall afterwards speak. The Titlark weighs six or seven gros, and its alar extent is only nine inches. The prevailing colour of its upper surface is olive, variegated with black on the fore-part, and pure olive behind. Its under

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA PRATENSIS. A. viridi-fusca, reatricibus duabus extrorsum albis, linea superciliari alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 493. No. 5.

ALAUDA PRATENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 792.—*Raii Syn.* p. 69. A. 3.—*Will.* p. 150.—*Bris.* iii. p. 343. 3.

SPIPOLA ALTEA ALDR.—*Raii Syn.* p. 80. 4.—*Will.* p. 153. 171.

L'ALOUETTE DE PRE's.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 660. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 304. pl. 134. f. 1.

TITLARK.—*Br. Zool.* No. 138.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 395. C.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 110 ? 206.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 374. 5.—*Bew. Birds*, 1. p. 191.

### HABITAT

in Europæ pratis, ubi sedens suave cantillat.—5½ pollices longa.—In Anglia frequens. W.

† In Italian, *Lodola di Prato, Mattolina, Petragnola, Corriera*: in German, *Brein-vogel, Schmel-vogel*.







THE TIT-LARK.

surface is yellowish-white, with black longitudinal spots on the breast and the sides, and the ground-colour of the plumage is black. The quills of the wings are almost black, edged with olive; and those of the tail are similar, except the outermost one, which is edged with white, and the one next it, which is tipped with the same colour.

This bird has a sort of white eyelids, which Linnæus adopts as its specific character.—The male has in general more yellow than the female, on the throat, on the breast, on the legs, and even on the feet, according to Albin.

The Titlark is flushed at the least noise, and shoots with a rapid flight; it perches, though with difficulty, on trees; it constructs its nest nearly as the woodlark, and lays the same number of eggs, &c.\* But, what distinguishes it, the first quill in its wing is equal to the rest, and its song, though very pleasant, is less varied. Mr. Pennant compares this to a jeering laugh, and Albin, to the warble of the canary finch; but both complain that it is too short and broken. However, Belon and Olina agree that this small bird is esteemed for the sweetness of its song; and I must own, that having occasion to hear it I found it really agreeable, though rather plaintive, and similar to the nightingale's strain, yet not so full and connected. It deserves to be noticed that this one

\* British Zoology,

was a female, since, in dissecting it, I discovered an *ovarium*: it contained three eggs that were larger than the rest, which seemed to promise a second hatch. Olin<sup>a</sup> tells us<sup>n</sup> that the Titlark is raised in the same way as the nightingale, but its delicacy renders the success extremely precarious; and, as it lives only three or four years, we<sup>d</sup> readily perceive the reason why the species is unfrequent, and why the male, when he mounts into the air to descry his mate, is obliged to sweep a much wider circuit than the common lark, or even the woodlark. Albin indeed pretends that it is long-lived, little subject to diseases, and lays five or six eggs: but if this were true, the number would be much greater.

According to M. Guys, the Titlark feeds chiefly upon the worms and insects for which it searches in new-ploughed lands. Willughby actually found beetles and small worms in its stomach; and I have myself seen in it portions of insects and of small worms, and also seeds and pebbles. If we believe Albin, it wags its tail from side to side while it eats.

The Titlarks breed generally in the meadows, and even in low and marshy grounds\*. They make their nest on the surface†, and conceal it artfully. While the female hatches, the male sits on a neighbouring tree, and rises at times, singing and clapping his wings.

\* British Zoology.

† Belon.—British Zoology.

Willughby, who seems to have observed this bird with great accuracy, says properly that its iris is hazel, the tip of its tongue divided into several filaments, its stomach moderately fleshy, its *cæca* rather longer than in the skylark, and that it has a gall-bladder. All this I have verified; and I shall add that there is no craw, and that even the *oesophagus* has scarcely any inflation at its junction with the stomach, and that this stomach or gizzard is large in proportion to the body. I kept one of these birds a whole year, and gave it no other food than small seeds.

The Titlark inhabits Italy, France, Germany, England, and Sweden. Albin tells us that it appears (in that part of England, no doubt, where he lived) about the beginning of April with the nightingale, and that it departs about the month of September. It sometimes begins its flight before the close of August, according to Lottinger\*, and seems to perform a long journey. If this be admitted, and if we suppose that it makes occasional halts in the temperate countries which it traverses, it may be among the number of those larks which are seen to pass the island of Malta in November. In autumn, that is, in the time of vintage, it

\* M. Lottinger only once saw a Titlark in Lorraine in the month of February, 1774. But, that same winter, he saw other birds which do not usually remain in that province, such as greenfinches, wagtails, &c. which M. Lottinger ascribes properly to the mildness of that year.

haunts the vicinity of the high roads. M. Guys remarks that it is exceedingly fond of the company of its fellows; and if it cannot obtain the society of these, it will intermingle with the flocks of finches and linnets which it meets in its passage.

Comparing what authors have said of the Titlark, I perceive differences which dispose one to think that the species is much subject to vary, or that it has been sometimes confounded with its kindred species, such as those of the woodlark and the grasshopper-lark \*.

\* The disposition of the spots on the plumage is nearly the same in the three species, though the colours of these spots are different in each, and the habits still more different; but less so, however, than the opinions of authors concerning the properties of the Titlark. We need only compare Belon, Aldrovandus, Brisson, Olin, Albin, &c. The colours by which Brisson characterises the species are not the same with those described by Aldrovandus; who takes no notice of the long hind-toe, but speaks of a certain motion of the tail, which the others, except Albin, omit. The latter pretends that the Titlark is long-lived, and little subject to diseases. Olin and Belon, on the contrary, assert that it is difficult to be raised; Olin positively asserts that it is short-lived. We need not mention their various opinions respecting its song.

## VARIETIES of the TITLARK.

THE white Titlark scarcely differs from the preceding, except in the plumage, which is almost universally yellowish - white, but yellower on the wings: its bill and feet are brown. Such was the one which Aldrovandus saw in Italy; and though the jesuit Rzacynski ranges it among the birds of Poland, I doubt whether it belongs to that country, or at least whether he ever saw it, since he uses the words of the Italian naturalist without any addition.

Total length five inches and a half; its bill six lines, the edges of the upper mandible a little scalloped near the point; its alar extent, about nine inches; its tail, two inches, somewhat forked, composed of twelve quills, exceeding the wings eight lines; the hind nail shorter and more hooked than in the preceding species.

## FOREIGN BIRD

RELATED TO THE TITLARK.

## THE LOUISIANA LARK\*.

I SAW this bird at M. Mauduit's, and it seems to resemble much the Titlark. Its throat is of a yellowish-grey; the neck and breast streaked with brown on the same ground: the rest of the under surface of its body is fulvous: the upper surface of its head and of its body is mixed with greenish brown, and with blackish; but as these colours are dingy, they contrast little with each other, and by their mixture they form an almost uniform dull-brown: the superior coverts are greenish-brown with no addition: the quills of the tail are brown; the

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA LUDOVICIANA. A. fusco nigricans, subtus fulva, jugulo pectoreque flavescence-griseis, pectore fusco maculato.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 494. No. 9.

ALAUDA LUDOVICIANA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 793.

LA FARLOUZANNE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 315.

LOUISIANE LARK.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 376. 7.

## HABITAT

in Louisiana.—7 pollices longa.

W.

outermost one consists of blackish-brown and white, the white being turned outwards, and the next quill tipped with white: the quills and the superior coverts of the wings are of a blackish-brown, edged with lighter brown.

Total length, near seven inches; the bill, seven lines; the *tarsus*, nine lines; the hind-toe, with its nail, rather less than eight lines, and this nail rather more than four lines, slightly curved; the tail, two inches and a half, and exceeds the wings by sixteen lines.



## THE GRASSHOPPER-LARK \*.

THIS is the smallest of all the French larks. The German epithet *piep* †, and the English *pippit*, allude evidently to its sibilous notes; and such appellations ought always to be preferred, as the most precise and expressive. Its cry, especially in winter, is compared to that of the grasshopper, but is rather stronger and shriller. It utters this both when on the wing, and when

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA TRIVIALIS. A. nigricante et olivaceo varia, sub  
tus albo-flavicans maculis nigricantibus, rectrice extima  
dimidiato, secunda apice alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 496  
No. 6.

ALAUDA TRIVIALIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 796.

— — SEPIARIA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 349. 5.

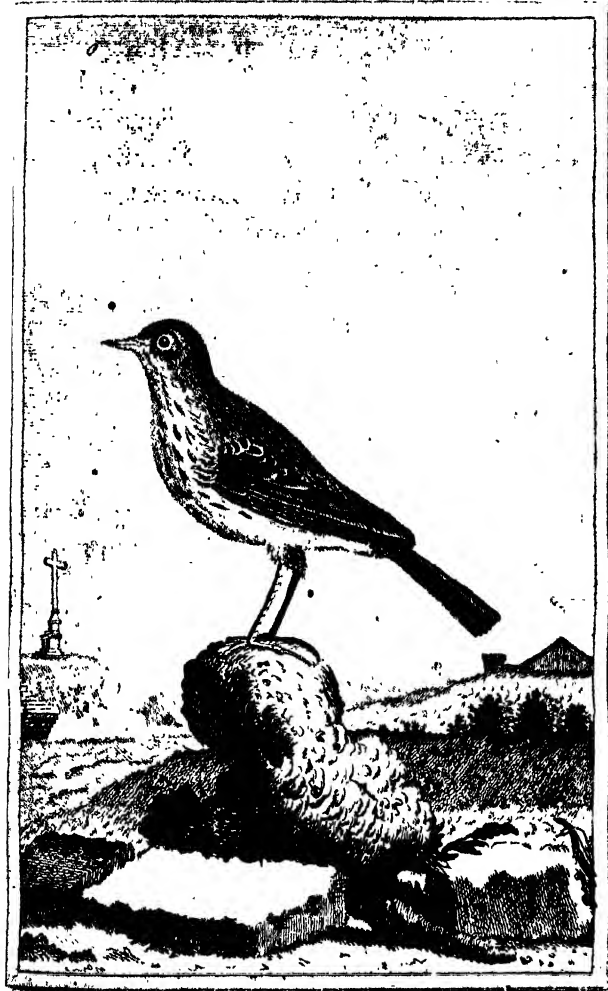
L'ALOUETTE PIPI.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 661. f. 2. 1.—*Buff. pa*  
*Sonn.* i. p. 317. pl. 134. f. 2.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 420. 20  
(quoad synon.)

## HABITAT

in Europa; circa medium Septembris in Anglia copiose  
venitur.

† The German name *Piep-lerche* is formed from the Latin  
*pipio*, which signifies to utter a feeble shrill cry like chickens.  
In modern English *pip* expresses the same, and is pronounced  
*peep* in the northern parts of the kingdom.





perched on the tallest branches among the bushes: for though its hind-nail be very long (yet not so long or so straight as that of the skylark), it sits on the small twigs, clasping with its fore-claws. It also rests on the ground, and runs very nimbly.

In the spring, when the cock bird sings on a branch, he performs it with much action: he looks big, displays his wings, and gives every mark of ardent emotion. At intervals he rises to a considerable height, hovers some seconds, and drops almost in the same place, continuing all the time to sing; and his tones are soft, harmonious, and clear.—This little bird builds its nest in solitary spots, and conceals it beneath a turf; and its young often become the prey of the adders. It generally lays five eggs, marked with brown near the large end. Its head is rather long than round; its bill delicate and blackish; the edges of its upper mandible scalloped near the tip; its nostrils half covered by a convex membrane of the same colour with the bill, and partly concealed under the small feathers which cover it before: there are sixteen quills in each wing; the upper surface of its body is of a greenish variegated brown; the under surface of a yellowish-white, speckled irregularly on the breast and neck: the ground-colour of its plumage is deep cinereous: lastly, there are two whitish stripes on the wings, which Linnæus has made one of the characters

The Grasshopper-larks appear in England about the middle of September, and great numbers of them are then caught in the environs of London\*. They frequent the heaths and plains, and flutter at a moderate height. Some generally remain during the winter in the fens near Sarbourg.

We may infer from the slender form of its bill, that the Grasshopper-lark feeds chiefly on insects and small seeds; and from its diminutive size, that it is not long-lived. It is found in Germany, in England, and in Sweden, according to the *Systema Naturæ* of Linnæus, though he takes no notice of it in his *Fauna Suecica*, at least in the first edition.

It is moderately tall. Total length, about five inches and a half; its bill six or seven lines; its hind-toe, four lines, and its nail five; its alar extent eight inches and one-third; its tail two inches, and exceeding the wings an inch†; its intestinal tube, six inches and a half; the œsophagus, two inches and a half, dilated before its insertion in the gizzard, which is muscular; there are two small *cæca*; I could find no gall-bladder: the gizzard occupies the left side of the lower belly, and is covered by the liver, and not by the intestines.

\* Albin.

† Composed of ten quills according to a good observer; but I suspect that two had been plucked.

## THE WILLOW-LARK \*.

THIS species is still inferior to the preceding, and indeed it is the smallest of all the European larks. We are indebted to the *British Zoology* for the account of it. It annually visits some willow-hedges near a pool in the parish of Whiteford, Flintshire; where it continues the whole summer. Its habits and general form are the same as those of the grasshopper-lark. With regard to its plumage, the head and the upper surface of the body are yellowish-brown, marked with dusky spots; the quill-feathers are brown,

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA LOCUSTELLA. S. fusco-viridis, maculis nigricantibus subtus flavescens, pectore saturatiore, cauda cuneata rectricibus apice mucronatis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 515. No. 25.

LOCUSTELLA AVICULA.—*Will.* p. 151.—*Raii Syn.* p. 70. A. 7.

LA LOCUSTELLE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 322.

TITLARK that sings like a Grasshopper.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 207.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER.—*Br. Zool.* i. No. 156.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 419. L.—*White, Hist. Scib.* p. 45.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 429. 20.

## HABITAT

in Suecica, Sibiria, alibique forte in Europa; in Anglia inter, rariores.—5-6 pollices longa. W.

edged with dirty yellow; the tail-feathers, deep brown; it has a sort of whitish eye-brows, and the under side of the body white, tinged with yellow\*.

\* "Nothing can be more amusing," says Mr. White, "than the whisper of this little bird, which seems to be close by though at an hundred yards distance; and, when close at your ear, is scarce any louder than when a great way off. Had not I been a little acquainted with insects, and known that the grasshopper kind is not yet hatched (18th April), I should have hardly believed but that it had been a *locusta* whispering in the bushes. The country people laugh when you tell them that it is the note of a bird. It is a most artful creature, skulking in the thickest part of a bush; and will sing at a yard distance provided it be concealed. . . . In a morning early, and when undisturbed, it sings on the top of a twig, gaping and shivering with its wings."—*Natural History of Selborne*, p. 45.

## THE MEADOW-LARK \*†.

THIS bird is rather larger than the titlark. Its hind-toe is very long, like that of the skylark, but its body is slenderer : it is also distinguished by the shake of its tail, similar to that of the wagtail and of the titlark. It inhabits heaths and uncultivated tracts, and frequents the oat-stubble soon after the corn is reaped, where it gathers in numerous flocks.

In spring the male perches to invite or to discover his mate; and sometimes he mounts into the air, singing with all his might, and

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA CAMPESTRIS. A. rectricibus fuscis, inferiore medietate, exceptis intermediis duabus, albis, gula pectoreque flavescente.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 495. No. 12.

ALAUDA CAMPESTRIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 794.—*Raii Syn.* p. 70. A. 6.—*Bris.* iii. p. 349. 5.

LA SPIPOLETTE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 324.

MEADOW-LARK.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 378. 10.

## HABITAT

in Europæ novalibus, et locis erica consitis. — 7 pollices longa.

W.

† In Italian, *Spiioletta*: in German, *Gickerlin*, *Brachlerche*, *Gereut-lerche*, *Kraut-lerche*: in Danish, *Mark-lærke*: in Polish, *Zdzbto*.



again returns quickly to the ground, which is always the scene of their amours.

If a person happens to come near the nest, the female betrays it by her cries; and this evinces a different instinct from that of the other larks, which, when danger threatens, remain silent and fixed.

Willughby saw a nest of the Meadow-lark in a furze-bush close on the ground; and formed of moss, lined with straw and horse-hair.

People have had the curiosity to raise the young males for the sake of their song; but it requires attention and care. The cage must at first be covered with a green cloth, little light must be admitted, and a profusion of ants' eggs must be furnished. After they are accustomed to feed in their prison, the supply of the ants' eggs may be abridged by degrees, and bruised hemp-seed substituted, mixed with flour and yolks of eggs.

The Meadow-larks are caught with the drag-net, like the skylarks, and also with lime-twigs, which are placed in the trees which they haunt. They associate with the finches; and it appears even that they arrive and depart along with these.

The males are hardly to be distinguished from the females by their exterior appearance; but if another male be presented shut up in a cage, they will instantly attack it, as an enemy or a rival\*.

\* Frisch.

Willughby says, that the Meadow-lark differs from all the other larks by the blackness of its bill and feet: he adds, that its bill is slender, straight, and pointed, and the corners of its mouth edged with yellow; that it has not, like the woodlark, the first quills of the wings shorter than the succeeding; and that in the male the wings are rather darker than in the female.

This bird is found in Italy, Germany, England, Sweden, &c.\*† Brisson considers the Jessop Meadow-lark as the same species with his, though the hind-nail is much longer in the latter; but that nail varies much according to age, sex, &c. There is a wider difference between the Meadow-lark of Brisson and that of Linnæus, though both naturalists regard them as the same kind; in that of the latter, all the quills of the tail, except the two middle ones, are white from their origin to half their length; but in that of the former, the two outermost quills only are white; not to mention many other minute differences, which taken together are sufficient to constitute a variety.

The Meadow-larks live on small seeds and insects. Their flesh, when fat, is excellent.—The head and all the upper surface of the body are dun-grey, tinged with olive; the eyebrows,

\* Aldrovandus and Willughby.

† Picot la Peyrouse says, that the Meadow-lark is found, during summer, on the summits of the Pyrenees; and Pallas observes, that numbers of them are seen in Russia, in the month of August.

the throat, and all the under surface of the body, are yellowish-white, with brown oblong spots on the neck and breast; the quills and coverts of the wings, brown, edged with lighter brown; the quills of the tail blackish, except the two intermediate ones, which are brown-grey, the outermost edged with white, and the next one tipped with the same: lastly, the bill is blackish, and the feet brown.

Total length, six inches and a half; the bill, six or seven lines; the alar extent above eleven inches; the tail, two inches and a half, somewhat forked, and composed of twelve quills; it projects fifteen lines beyond the wings\*.

\* Its egg resembles much that of the skylark, only it is scarcely one half the size, and its tints are lighter.

## THE ITALIAN LARK \*.

BRISSEAU suspects, with much probability, that the subject observed by Aldrovandus was a young bird, whose tail, being extremely short, and consisting of very narrow feathers, was not entirely formed, and in which the junction of the mandibles was edged with yellow. But I should imagine he ought to have drawn another inference besides, that it was only a variety of the common species derived from age, since Aldrovandus, the only author who mentions it, saw no more than one specimen. Its size was the same with that of the skylark, and it had the chief character, which is the long nail project-

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA ITALICA. A. fusco-castanea subtus alba, capite vitta annulari albicante, rectricæ extima alba, proxima apice alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 492. No. 4.

ALAUDA ITALICA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 355. 7.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 793.

GIAROLA.—*Raii Syn.* p. 70. 10.—*Will.* p. 152.—*Id. (Angl.)* p. 209. 9.

LA GIROLE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 330.

ITALIAN LARK.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 373. 4.

## HABITAT .

in Italia.—8 pollices longa.

W.

ing from each foot. The plumage of the head and of the upper side of the body was variegated with chesnut, with lighter brown, with whitish, and with bright rufous. Aldrovandus compares it to that of the quail, or of the woodcock. The under surface of the body was white; the back of the head encircled with a sort of whitish crown; the quills of the wings brown chesnut, edged with a lighter colour; those of the tail, at least the four middle ones, of the same colour; the pair following divided by chesnut and white; and the last pair entirely white; the tail somewhat forked, and an inch long; the ground colour of the plumage cinereous; the bill red, with a large opening; the corners of the mouth yellow; the feet flesh-coloured; the nails whitish; the hind nail six inches in length, almost straight, and only a little curved at the tip.

This bird was killed near Bologna, about the end of May. I wish those naturalists who have an opportunity of observing it, would refer it to its true species; for I much doubt whether it forms a separate species. Ray supposed that it belonged to that of the woodlark, and differing only in the colours of its tail-quills; but it is equal to the skylark, and consequently much larger than the woodlark; and if with Brisson we reckon it a young bird, this distinction will be the more important.

## THE CALANDRE, or LARGE LARK\*.

OPPIAN, who lived in the second century of the Christian æra, is the first of the ancients who mentions this lark; and he describes the best method for catching it, which is precisely the same as that since proposed by Olina, viz. to spread a net near the brook whither that bird usually resorts to drink.

This bird is larger than the skylark; its bill

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS

ALAUDA CALANDRA†. A. rectrice extima exterius tota alba, secunda tertiaque apice albis, fascia pectorali fusca.  
—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 496. No. 17.

ALAUDA CALANDRA.—*Gnæl. Syst.* i. p. 800.—*Bris.* iii. p. 352. G. t. 20. f. 1.—*Will.* p. 151.

LA CALANDRE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 333, pl. 135. f. 1.

CALANDRE LARK.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 280.—*Edw.* t. 268.  
—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 208.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 382. 18.—*Id. Sup.* p. 177.

### HABITAT

in Italia.—7½ pollices longa.

W.

† Oppian termed it Καλάνδρα, and gave it the epithet of Μεγαλόφωνος, or *Largens*.—Hence all the modern names: in Italian and Spanish, *Chulandria*: in German, *Kalander* or *Gelander*, &c.

is stronger and shorter, so that it is able to bruise grain; and the species is less numerous, and not so widely spread. In other respects, the Calandre resembles exactly the ordinary lark. Its plumage, its port, its shape, its habits, and its tones, are the same. Its warble is perhaps more sonorous than that of the skylark, but is as pleasant\*; for, in Italy, it is an usual compliment to say one sings like a Calandre†. Like the common lark, also, it can imitate exactly the notes of several birds, such as the goldfinch, the linnet; the canary, &c. and even the chirping of young chickens, and the love-squall of the she-cat‡; in short, every sound adapted to its organs, and impressed in its tender age.

To have good singers, we must, according to Olina, take the young Calandres from the nest, at least before the first moult, and preferring those especially which are hatched in August. We begin with a paste mixed partly with sheep's heart, and afterwards add seeds and crumbs of bread, taking care always to lay rubbish in the cage for whetting their bill, and also sand for them to welter in when teased with vermin. But, in spite of all our attention, we shall derive little pleasure the first year; for the Calandre is slowly fashioned into habits of slavery. In the beginning,

\* Belon.      † Aldrovandus.      ‡ Olina.

we should even pinion their wings, and instead of the top of the cage, we should substitute a spread canvas\*. But after they are reconciled to their situation, and have acquired the proper bias, they will sing incessantly, grow so fond of repeating their own warble, or that of other birds, as soon to neglect their food†.

The male is larger, and blacker round the neck; the female has only a very narrow collar‡. Some, instead of a collar, have a large black space, and such was the one that we have figured.—The Calandre nestles on the ground, like the common lark, under a grassy tuft, and lays four or five eggs. Olinia adds, that it lives only four or five years, and consequently is far from gaining the age of the skylark. Belon conjectures that it forms flocks like the last§, and subjoins that it is never seen in France, unless it be brought hither: but this assertion relates only to Mans and the contiguous pro-

\* Olinia.

† Gesner.

‡ Edwards.—The person who communicated this observation to Mr. Edwards, had a method of distinguishing the male from the female, in small birds. It was, to lay them on their back, and blow up their breast: when the bird was a female, the feathers parted on each side, leaving the breast bare. But this method is not certain except in the season of hatching.—GESNER.

§ This conjecture of Belon's is without foundation; as the Calandre generally flies alone. According to Sonnini, it grows very fat in the autumn, and is then delicate eating.



vinces; for the species is frequent in Provence, where it is called *coulassade*, on account of its black collar, and where it is usually bred for the sake of its song. With regard to Germany, Poland, Sweden, and the other northern countries, it seems not to visit them. It is found in Italy, in the Pyrenees, and in Sardinia; and lastly, Dr. Russel informed Edwards, that it was common near Aleppo; and Edwards gives a coloured figure of a true Calandre, which came, it is said, from Carolina. Itself or its progenitors might have been driven across the Atlantic by the fury of the winds, and in that warm climate it would thrive and become naturalised.

Adanson regards the Calandre as intermediate between the skylark and the thrush: but this analogy must be restricted to the plumage and the external form; for the habits of the Calandre and of the thrush are very different, especially in the mode of constructing their nests.

Total length, seven inches and a quarter; the bill, nine lines; the tail, two inches and one-third, consisting of twelve quills, of which the two outer pairs are edged with white, the third pair tipped with the same colour, the intermediate pair brownish-grey, and all the rest black; these quills project a few lines beyond the wings; the hind-toe measures ten lines.

## FOREIGN BIRDS

ANALOGOUS TO THE CALANDRE-LARK.

I.

### THE CAPE-LARK.\*

I DID not see the individual from which the figure in the *Planches Enluminées* was drawn, but I have examined several others of the same species. In general, the upper side of the head is brown in the males, variegated with grey; the throat and the top of the neck, beautiful orange; and the collar is edged with black through the whole verge of its circumference:

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA CAPENSIS. A. rectricibus tribus lateralibus apice albis, gula lutea nigro marginata, superciliis flavis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 498. No. 20.

ALAUDA CAPENSIS.—*Linn. Syst.* i. p. 288. 8.—*Bris.* iii. p. 384. II. t. 19. f. 3.

LE CRAVATE JAUNE, ou CALANDRE du CAP de B. E.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 504. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 340.

CAPE-LARK.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 384. 18.

#### HABITAT

ad Caput Bonæ Spei.—6 pollices longa.

the same orange forms also a sort of eyebrows, and is scattered in small spots on the little coverts of the wing, and on its anterior border whose margin it defines: the breast is variegated with brown, grey, and blackish; the belly and loins, with orange-rufous; the under surface of the tail, greyish; the quills of the tail of a brown cast, but the four outer pairs are edged and terminated with white; the quills of the wings brown, and also edged, the large ones with yellow, and the middle ones with grey: lastly, the bill and feet are of a brown-grey, variously intense.

In two females which I observed, the collar was not orange, but light rufous; the breast speckled with brown on the same ground, which became more intense as it retired from the fore part: lastly, the upper surface of the body was more variegated, because the feathers were edged with a lighter grey.

Total length, seven inches and a half; the bill, ten lines; the alar extent, eleven inches and a half; the hind toe, including the nail, longer than the middle toe; the tail, two inches and a half, somewhat forked, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings by fifteen lines.—I saw and measured a specimen which was an inch longer than the above, and all its other dimensions were proportionally large.

## II.

### THE SHORE-LARK\*.

I range this American lark beside the preceding, to which it is much akin: it differs however by its climate, by its magnitude, and by some accidents of its plumage. It sometimes enters Germany in the time of snow; for which reason, Frisch terms it *the winter lark*. But we must not confound it with the *lulu*, which, according to Gesner, might bear the same appellation, since it appears when the ground is buried with snow. Frisch says, that it is little known in Germany, and that the place of its retreat is not ascertained.

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA ALPESTRIS. A. rectricibus dimidio interiore albis, gula flava, fascia suboculari pectoralique nigra.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 498. No 21.

ALAUDA ALPESTRIS.—*Gmel Syst.* i. p. 800.

ALAUDA VIRGINIANA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 367. 12.

LE HAUSSECOL NOIR.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 343.

SHORE-LARK.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 278.—*Cates. Car* i. t. 32.

—*Phil. Trans.* lxii. p. 398.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 385. 19.

#### HABITAT

in America boreali, Europa.—6½ pollices longa.

W.

These Shore-larks are also caught sometimes in the neighbourhood of Dantzic, with other birds, in the months of April and December, and one of them lived several months in a cage. Klein presumes, that they had been driven by a gust of wind from North America into Norway, or the countries still nearer the pole, whence they would easily pass into milder climates.

It appears, too, that they are birds of passage; for we learn from Catesby, that they are seen in Virginia and Carolina only in winter, advancing from the north in great flocks; and that in the spring they return by the same route. During their stay they frequent the downs, and feed upon the oat which grows among the sand\*.

This Lark is of the bulk of the ordinary sort, and its song is nearly the same. The upper side of its body is brown; its bill black; its eyes placed on a yellow bar that rises from the base of its bill; its throat and the rest of its neck of the same colour; and this yellow is partly terminated on each side by a black bar, which, rising from the corners of the mouth, passes under the eyes, and reaches the middle of the neck; it is terminated below the neck by a sort of collar or black gorget: the breast and all the under side of the body are of a deep straw-colour.

\* *Uniola Panicula*, Linn.

Total length, six inches and a half; the bill, seven lines; the hind toe and nail still longer than in our lark; the tail, two inches and a half, a little forked, composed of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings ten or twelve lines\*.

\* Pennant observes, that the Shore-larks appear about our settlements in Hudson's Bay in May, and proceed farther north to breed. They feed on grass-seeds and the buds of the sprig-birch. In winter they retire to the southern provinces in great flocks, but reach Virginia and Carolina only in very severe weather. They frequent sand-hills on the sea-shore, and feed on the sea-side oats, *uniola panicula*. They are also found in Poland, but more frequently in Russia and Siberia. In both they are common during winter, but retire to the north on approach of spring.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 292. W.

### III.

## THE BROWN-CHEEKED PENNSYLVANIAN LARK\*.

This is a migratory lark common to both continents: for Bartram, who sent the speci-

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA RUBRA. A. obscure fusca, subtus fulvo-rufescens maculis fuscis varia, genis nigricantibus, superciliis pallide rufis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 494. No. 10.

ALAUDA RUBRA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 794.

— PENSYLVANICA.—*Bris. Sep.* p. 94.

men to Edwards, wrote, that it appears in Pennsylvania in the month of March, and is not seen after the end of May, but advances northward; and, on the other hand, Edwards found it in the vicinity of London.

This bird is of the size of the meadow-lark: its bill is thin, pointed, and of a deep brown colour; its eyes brown, edged with a lighter tint, and surrounded by an oval brown spot, which descends on the cheeks, and bounded by a zone, which is partly white and partly bright fulvous. All the upper side of its body is dull brown, except the two outer quills of its tail, which are white; its neck, its breast, and all the under side of its body, of a reddish-fulvous speckled with brown: its feet and nails are deep brown, like its bill: its hind nail is very long, but not quite so long as in the skylark. A peculiarity of this species is, that when the wing is closed, the third quill reckoning from the body reaches the end of the longest quills;

L'ALOUETTE à JOURS BRUNES de PENNSYLVANIE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 347.

LARK FROM PENNSYLVANIA.—*Edw.* t. 297.

RED LARK.—*Br. Zool.* No. 140.—*Arct. Zool.* ÿ. No. 279.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 376. 8.

#### HABITAT

in America septentrionali; in Anglia quoque, prope Londinium, interdum invenitur. W.

which, according to Edwards, is an invariable character of the wagtails. But this is not the only point of analogy between the larks and the wagtails; for we have before seen that the meadow and titlarks have a similar shake in their tails.



## THE MARSH-LARK \*

THIS lark, which is found in Alsace, is of a middle size between the skylark and the titlark. The upper part of its head and body is varied with rufous and brown ; the sides of the head, rusty, marked with three brown stripes that are almost parallel, and of which the highest passes below the eye : the throat is of a very light rufous ; the breast of a deeper rufous, and sprinkled with little brown spots ; the belly, and the lower coverts of the tail, light rufous ; the quills of the tail and wings blackish, and edged with the same rufous ; the bill and feet yellowish.

Like many other species of this kind, the

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**ALAUDA MOSELLANA.** *A. rufa fusco variâ, subtus rufescens, pectore fusco maculato, fasciis tribus subocularibus fuscis.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 495. No. 11.

**ALAUDA MOSELLANA†.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 794.

**LA ROUSSELINE, ou L'ALOUETTE de MARAIS.**—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 661. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 356. pl. 135. f. 2.

**MARSH-LARK.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 377. 9.

### HABITAT

in Germania, ad fluvium Mosellam.— $6\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa. W.

† Rzacynski terms it the Pine-lark ; in Polish, *Skowronek Borowy*.

marsh-lark begins its song at dawn, which, according to Rzacyński, is exceedingly pleasant. Its name shows that it haunts wet situations: it often frequents the sandy margin of the Moselle, and sometimes breeds on its banks, near Metz, where it appears annually in October; at which time a few are caught.

Mauduit told me of a rufous lark, in which the feathers on the upper part of the body were tipped with white, and also the lateral quills of the tail: this is probably a variety of the marsh-lark.

Total length, six inches and a quarter; the bill, eight lines; the *tarsus*, an inch; the hind-toe, three lines and a half, somewhat curved; the tail, two inches and a quarter, and exceeds the wings by eighteen lines.

## THE SIBERIAN LARK

OF all the birds denominated larks, this is the most conspicuous for beauty of plumage. Its throat, its face, and the sides of its head, are of a pleasant yellow, which is set off by a black spot between the eye and the bill, that joins to another larger one immediately below the eye : its breast is ornamented with a broad black girdle : the rest of the under surface of its body is whitish ; the sides a little yellowish, variegated with deeper spots ; the upper part of its head and body variegated with rusty and dun-grey ; the superior coverts of its tail yellowish, and its quills blackish, edged with grey, except the outermost, which are white ; the wing-quills grey, finely edged with a blacker colour : the

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**ALAUDA ALPESTRIS.** *A. rufa griseo varia, subtus alba, vertice nigro maculato, fascia pectorali suboculari lorisque nigris.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 498. No. 21. Var.  $\beta$ .

**ALAUDA FLAVA.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 800.

**LA CEINTURE DE PRETRE.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 359. pl. 136. f. 1.—*Pl. Enl.* 650. f. 2.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 387.

### HABITAT

in Siberia.—5½ pollices longa.

W.

superior coverts are of the same grey, bordered with rusty ; the bill and feet leaden-grey.

This bird was sent from Siberia, where it is still not common.—The navigator John Wood speaks of small birds like larks seen at Nova Zembla\* : these are probably of the same species, since both prefer an arctic climate.—Lastly, in the *Fauna Russica* I find the *Alauda Tungustica aurita*, or the crested lark of Tunguse, a nation which borders on Siberia. But we still want observations to assign these birds their true place.

Total length, five inches and three quarters ; the bill, six or seven lines ; the nail, five lines and a half ; the tail, two inches, composed of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings an inch.

\* Hist. Gén. des Voyages, t. xv. p. 167.

## FOREIGN BIRDS

WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE LARK.

## I.

## THE RUFOUS-LARK.

COMMERSON brought this beautiful little bird from the country watered by the *de la Plata*. The upper surface of its head and body is blackish, prettily variegated with different rufous tints : the fore part of its neck is mailed with the same ; its throat, and all the under surface of its body, whitish ; the quills

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA RUFA. *A. nigricans rufo nebulosa, corpore subtus gulaque albis, reatricibus duabus extimis albo marginatis.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 498. No. 22.

ALAUDA RUFA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 798.

LA VARIOLE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 362. pl. 136. f. 2.

LA PETITE ALOUETTE de BUENOS AYRES.—*Pl. Enl.* 738, f. 1.

RUFOUS LARK.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 388. 20.

## HABITAT

in America meridionali, ad fluvium Plata.—5½ pollices longa. W.

of its tail brown, the eight middle ones edged with light rufous, and the two outer pairs edged with white; the great quills of the wings grey, and the middle ones brown, all edged with rusty colour; the bill brown, grooved near the point; the feet yellowish.

Total length, five inches and a quarter; the bill, eight lines; the *tarsus*, seven or eight lines; the hind toe three lines, and its nail four lines; the tail, twenty lines, somewhat forked, consisting of twelve quills, exceeding the wings by an inch.

## II.

### THE CINEREOUS LARK\*.

I HAVE seen the figure of a lark from the Cape of Good Hope, in which the throat and

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**ALAUDA CINEREA.** *A. cinerea*, abdomine albo, remigibus rectricibusque fuscis, rectrice extima extus apice alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 499. No. 23.

**ALAUDA CINEREA.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 798.

**LA CENDRILLE.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* l. p. 364.

**CINEREOUS LARK.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 388. 21.

#### HABITAT,

ad Caput B. Spei?—6 pollices longa.

W.

all the under part of the body were white, the upper part of the head rufous, and a sort of cap with a border of white stretching from the base of the bill beyond the eyes: on each side of the neck was a rufous spot edged with black above; the upper surface of the neck and body cinereous; the superior coverts of the wings, and their middle quills, grey; the large quills black, and so were those of the tail

Total length five inches; the bill, eight lines; the nail of the hind toe straight and pointed, and equal to the toe; the tail, eighteen or twenty lines, and projecting nine lines beyond the wings.

Is there any analogy between this bird and the cinereous lark which Dr. Shaw saw in plenty near Biserta, which is the ancient Utica? Both these birds are natives of Africa; but the distance is prodigious from the coasts of the Mediterranean to the Cape of Good Hope, and the cinereous lark of Biserta is not sufficiently known to permit us to decide its species. May it not be related to the Senegal lark?

## III.

## THE AFRICAN LARK \*.

If this bird seems to differ from the larks by the curvature of its bill, it approaches them still more by the length of its hind nail.

All the upper surface is variegated with shades of brown, rufous, and white; the coverts of the wings, their quills, and those of the tail, brown edged with whitish, some having a double border, the one whitish and the other rusty; all the inferior part of the body whitish, sprinkled with blackish spots; the bill black, and the feet brown.

Total length, eight inches; the bill, one inch; the *tarsus*, thirteen lines; the hind toe, four lines, and its nail seven lines, straight and pointed; the tail, about two lines and a half, consisting of twelve quills, and projecting eighteen lines beyond the wings.

## \* CHARACTER \*SPECIFICUS.

*ALAUDA AFRICANA.* A. fusca rufó alboque varia, subtus alba maculis fuscis, alis caudaque fuscis. — *Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii, p. 499. No. 24.

*ALAUDA AFRICANA.* — *Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 798.

LE SIRLI du CAP DE B. ESPERANCE. — *Buff. Pl. Enl.* 712.  
— *Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 566.

AFRICAN LARK. — *Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 389. 22.

## HABITAT

ad Caput Bonæ Spei. — 8 pollices longa.

W.



## THE CRESTED LARK \*

THE crest is, according to Belon, composed of four large 'feathers ; but Olina says there are

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA CRISTATA. A. rectricibus nigris, extimis duabus margine exteriori albis, capite cristato.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 499. No. 25.

ALAUDA CRISTATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 796.—*Raii Syn.* p. 69. 4.—*Will.* p. 151. t. 40. —*Bris.* iii. p. 357. 8.

LE COCHEVIS OU LA GROSSE ALOUETTE HUPPE'E—*Buff.* *Pl. Enl.* 503. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 368. pl. 137. f. 2.

CRESTED LARK.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 208.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 389. 23.

### HABITAT

in Europæ.—6½ pollices longa.

W.

† Aristotle calls it *Κεφαλός λοφοειχύς*, i. e. the helmet lark having a crest. Pliny terms it *Galerita*, and Varro *Galeritus* ; both derived from *Galerus*, a furred cap, whose primitive is *Galea*, a helmet.

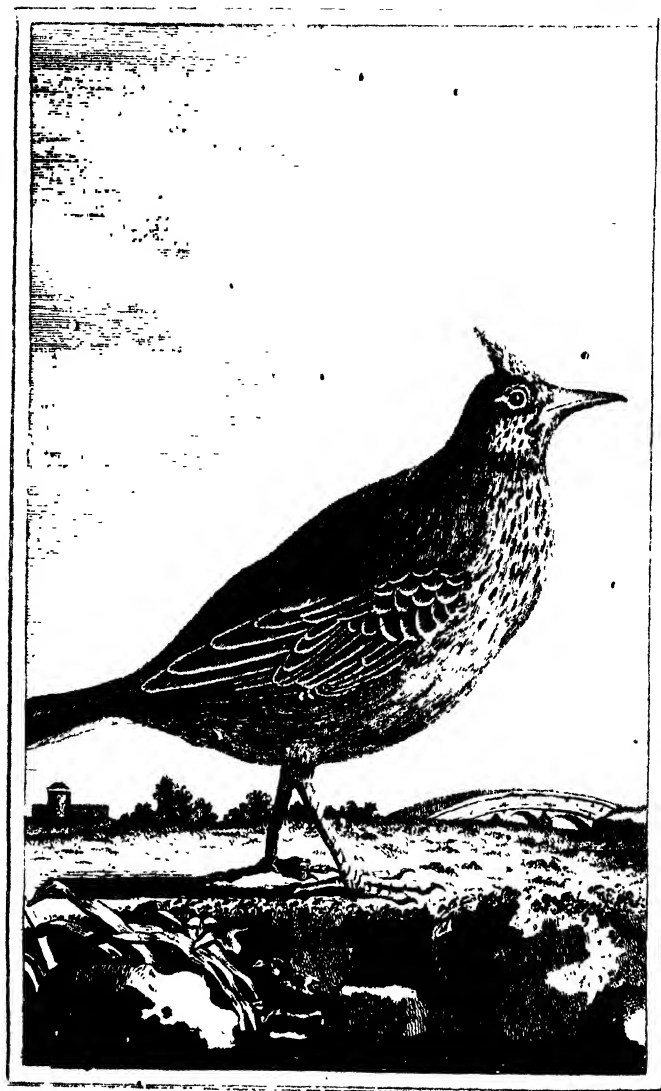
In Italian, it has the names *Lodola Capelluta*, *Capelino*, *Covarella*, and *Ciperina*.

In German, it is called *Heide-lerche*, *Baum-lerche*, *Holtz-lerche* or the *Heath-lark*, the *Tree-lark*, the *Wood-lark*, the *Way-lark*.

In Danish, it is termed *Top-lærke* and *Vej-lærke*.

The French appellation *Cochervis* is a contraction for *Cocherisage* or *Cock's-face* ; because the tuft resembles somewhat a cock's comb.





THE CRESTED LARK.

four or six, and others increase the number even to twelve\*. Naturalists agree no better with regard to its position and structure: some assert that it is always erect†; others allege that the bird raises or depresses it, contracts or expands it, at pleasure‡: nor can we decide whether this difference ought to be imputed to the climate, as Turner hints, or to the age, the sex, or other modifying causes.

The crested lark is a bird of little timidity, says Belon, which seems pleased at the sight of man, and begins to sing when he comes near it. It lives in the meadows and fields, on the sides of ditches and the backs of furrows: it is often seen at the margin of water, and on the high roads, where it picks its subsistence from the horse-dung, especially in winter. Frisch tells us, that it is found also in the skirts of the woods, perched on a tree; but this seldom occurs, and still more rarely is it discovered in the heart of forests. It sometimes rests on house-tops, the walls of abbeys, &c.

This lark, though not so common as the skylark, is however spread through the most of Europe, if not in the northern parts. It is found in Italy, according to Olina; in France, according to Belon; in Germany, according to Willughby; in Poland, according to Racynski; and in Scotland, according to Sibbald:

\* Willughby. † Turner. ‡ Willughby and Brisson.

but I doubt whether it inhabits Sweden, since Linnæus does not mention it in his *Fauna Suecica*.

The Crested Lark changes not its abode in winter; but Belon was hasty in suspecting the text of Aristotle, since it is only said that bird conceals itself in that season, and surely it is less seen in winter than in summer\*.

The song of the males is loud, yet so mellow and pleasant that a sick person can bear it in his chamber†.—In order to make them sing at all times indiscriminately, they are shut up in cages: their warble is ordinarily accompanied by a quivering of the wings. They are the first to hail the return of spring, and to chant the appearance of the morning, particularly when the air is calm and clear; and sometimes they warble during the night‡: for fine weather exhilarates and inspires congenial notes; but clouds and rain oppress their spirits, and occasion languor and gloomy silence. They generally sing till the end of September.—As these birds are with difficulty habituated to confinement, and as they live only a short time in the cage, it is proper to set them at liberty each year in the end of June, which is the time when they cease to sing; and to trust to the catching of others the following spring. And though the bird be dismissed, its music

\* Φωλῆ γὰρ . . . καὶ χειμῶνος.—*Hist. Anim. lib. viii. 16.*

† *Traité du Serin*, p. 43.

‡ *Frisch.*

may be preserved; for, if it be put beside a young skylark or a young canary, they will soon learn to imitate it\*.

But besides the excellency of his warble, the male is distinguished by the strength of his bill, the bigness of his head, and by a larger share of black on his breast †. He conducts his amours in the same way as the skylark; only, by reason of the smaller numbers, he is obliged to describe a more spacious circle in the air.

The female constructs her nest like the common lark, but oftenest near the highways: she lays four or five eggs, and takes little concern in hatching them. It is even said that a very moderate warmth, aided by the sun's rays, is sufficient for the purpose ‡; but after the young are excluded, they awaken her tenderness by their repeated cries, and she then provides for them with a maternal affection till they are flown.

Frisch says, that they breed twice a year, and prefer to nestle in junipers: but this remark is chiefly adapted to the climate of Germany.

The early education of the young succeeds easily, but they are always more difficult to be

\* Frisch.

† Olina.

‡ As these nests are made on the ground, some ignorant credulous person may have seen a toad beside them, or even on the eggs; and hence the fable, that the crested and some other species of larks entrusted the toads with the business of incubation.

supported afterwards; and it is uncommon, as I have asserted on the authority of Frisch, to preserve them alive in the cage for a whole year. And even when we give them the food that agrees best with them, which is ants' eggs, ox and sheep's hearts minced down, bruised hemp-seed and millet, we must be careful, in introducing the little balls into the throat, not to derange the tongue, which might prove fatal.

Autumn is the proper season to lay snares for these birds; and then great numbers in plump condition are caught on the verge of the forests. Frisch observes, that they may be decoyed by the call, which the skylarks are proof against. The other differences are these: The crested lark never consorts in flocks; its plumage is less varied and more white; its bill is longer, and its tail and wings shorter; it does not mount so high in the air, is less able to struggle with the winds, and returns sooner to the ground. In other properties, the two species are alike, and even with regard to the period of their lives, when not abridged by the constraints of slavery.

Upon the whole, it appears that, of all the larks, the crested, notwithstanding the attachment it is said to show to man, has the most independent disposition, and recoils from the domestic state. It lives solitary, to escape perhaps the restraints of the social condition.—

However, it can forget its native warble\*, and is soon taught other airs, which it repeats without blending or confusion †.

In the subject observed by Willughby, the tongue was broad and rather forked, the *cæca* extremely short, and the gall-bladder of a dull blueish-green, which that naturalist attributes to some accidental cause.

Aldrovandus gives the figure of an aged Crested Lark. Its bill was white round the base; the back cinereous; the under side of the body whitish, and also the breast whitish, though dotted with brown; the wings almost entirely white, and the tail black.

The Crested Lark has other enemies besides man: the smallest of the rapacious birds attack it, and Albertus saw one devoured by a raven. It dreads its ravenous foes so much as to throw itself at the mercy of the fowler, or remain motionless in a furrow till it be caught by the hand.

Total length, six inches and three-quarters; the bill, eight or nine lines; the hind toe with

\* The Crested Lark is the only one perhaps that may be instructed in the space of a month. It repeats an air whistled to it, even when sleeping with its head under its wing; but its voice is very feeble.

† "The Crested Lark can learn many airs perfectly, which the Canary cannot. . . . Besides, it retains nothing of its native warble. . . . And this the Canary can never lay aside." *Traité du Serin de Canarie*, p. 43. edit. 1707.



the nail the longest of all, and measuring nine or ten lines; the alar extent, ten or eleven inches; the tail two inches and a quarter, composed of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings by thirteen lines.

## THE LESSER CRESTED LARK \*.

THE chief difference between this and the preceding consists in its inferior size: its plumage is also lighter; its feet reddish; and its cry, which is disagreeable, is never uttered except when it flies †. It is likewise distinguished by its mimicking oddly the songs of other birds §: they are not solitary, but rove

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA CRISTATELLA. A. cristata, corpore supra fusco, subtus albicante, remigibus rectricibusque fuscis, pedibus subrubris.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 499. No. 26.

ALAUDA NEMOROSA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 797.

—— CRISTATA MINOR.—*Raii Syn.* p. 69. A. 5.—*Will.* p. 152.—*Bris.* iii. p. 361. 9.

LE LULU †.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 503. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* 1. p. 382. pl. 137. f. 1.

LESSER CRESTED LARK.—*Br. Zool.* i. No. 141.—*Will.* (*Angl.*) p. 207.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 391. 24.

### ● HABITAT

in Europa; frequens in Italia; in Anglia, comitatu Eboracensi, rarius. W.

† Gesner says that its name *Lulu* is formed in imitation of its cry, *lu, lu, lu*.

‡ Aldrovandus.

§ Gesner.

through the fields in bodies\*: the tuft consists of feathers proportionally longer than in the Crested Lark †.

This bird is found in Italy, in Austria, in Poland, in Silesia, and in the northern counties of England, as in Yorkshire, &c. but its name appears not in the catalogue of birds that inhabit Sweden ‡.

It frequents heaths, commons, and even woods, whence the German name *Wald-lerche*: in such situations it builds its nest, and hardly ever among corn.

In the rigours of winter, and particularly when the ground is covered with snow, it resorts to the dunghills, and picks up its food about the barns. It also haunts the highways, and certainly for the same reason.

According to Longolius, it is a bird of passage, which remains in Germany all winter, and leaves that country about the time of the equinox.

Gesner mentions another Crested Lark, of which he saw only a drawing, and which had only a slight variation of plumage, there being more white round the eyes and the neck, and below the belly. But this might be owing to age, as in the instance of the former article;

\* Adrovandus.

† Idem.

‡ It occurs in Holland, where they call it *Koppier*. The bird-catchers frequently take them in Autumn. W.

or it might arise from some accidental cause : the difference is undoubtedly insufficient to constitute a distinct species. I must however observe, that in Gesner's figure the hind nail is • not so long as usual in the larks\*.

\* Its egg is light-red, with a few ferruginous spots.

## THE UNDATED LARK \*

THIS is a new species, which M. Guys sent to us from Provence. It appears to be related to the crested lark; for it has a small supine tuft, which it probably can elevate at pleasure. It is properly the bird of the morning, since it begins with the earliest dawn, and seems to rouse the other birds. According to Guys, the male does not leave his mate when she hatches; and when the one is employed, in seeking their food, which consists of caterpillars, grasshoppers, and even snails, the other keeps watch, to give the signal when danger threatens.

The throat and all the under side of the body are whitish, with small blackish spots on the neck and breast; the tuft feathers blackish

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALAUDA UNDATA. A. cristata nigricans rufo varia, subtus alba, pectore nigro maculato, tectricibus alarum majoribus apice albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 500. No. 27.

ALAUDA UNDATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 797.

LA COQUILLADE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 662.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 5. pl. 138. f. 1.

UNDATED LARK.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 391. 25.

### • HABITAT

in Europa, Africa.

W.

edged with white; the upper side of the head and body variegated with blackish and light rufous; the great coverts of the wings tipped with white; the quills of the tail and of the wings brown, edged with light rufous, except some in the wings that are edged or tipped with white: the bill is brown above, and whitish below; the feet yellowish.

Total length, six inches and three quarters; the bill, eleven lines, and pretty strong; the *tarsus*, ten lines; the hind-toe nine or ten lines, the nail (which is eight lines) included; the tail two inches, exceeding the wings seven or eight lines.

Sonnerat brought a lark very like this from the Cape of Good Hope; the only difference being, that it had no crest, that the colour of the under side of its body was more yellowish, and that none of the quills of the tail or wings was edged with white.—It was perhaps a female, or a young bird of the year's hatch.

In Hasselquist's Travels, a Spanish lark is mentioned, which that naturalist saw in the Mediterranean the instant it left the shore; but he takes no farther notice of it, and I can find no species described by authors under that appellation\*.

\* Sonnini conceives this Spanish lark to be one of the two species which modern ornithologists name the red and Portugal lark.

## FOREIGN BIRD

RELATED TO THE CRESTED LARK.

## THE SENEGAL LARK\*.

WE owe to Brisson almost all we know of this foreign bird. It has a sort of tuft, consisting of feathers that are longer than those which cover the rest of the head: it is nearly as large as the skylark. It inhabits Africa; and perches on the trees which grow on the banks of the Niger; it is also seen in the island of Senegal. The upper side of its body is variegated with grey and brown; the superior coverts of the tail rusty grey; the under surface of its body

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**ALAUDA SENEGALENSIS.** A. fusco griseoque varia, subtus albida, collo inferiore fusco maculato, rectricibus duabus extimis extus rufo-albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 500. No. 28.

**ALAUDA SENEGALENSIS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 797.

————— **CRISTATA.**—*Bris.* iii. p. 362. 10.  
t. 19. f. 2.

**LA GRISETTE, ou COCHEVIS du SENEGAL.**—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 504. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 8.

**SENEGAL LARK.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 392. 26.

## HABITAT

in Senegala—6½ pollices longa.

W.

whitish, with small brown spots on the neck ; the quills of its wings brown-grey, edged with grey ; the two middle ones of its tail grey ; the lateral ones brown, except the outermost, which is rusty-white, and the next, which is edged with the same : the bill is horn-colour ; the feet and nails grey.

I have seen a female, whose tuft was laid back as that of the male, and variegated, as well as the head and the upper side of the body, with brown streaks on a rusty ground : the rest of the plumage conformed to the preceding description. The bill was longer, and the tail shorter.

Total length six inches and a half ; the bill nine lines and a half ; the alar extent eleven inches ; the hind-toe, including the nail, equal to the mid-toe ; the tail, two inches two lines, rather forked, and consisting of twelve quills ; it exceeds the wings by six or seven lines.



## THE NIGHTINGALE

every person whose ear is not totally insensible to melody, the name of Nightingale

### SYLVIA.

#### CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Rostrum* subulatum, rectum, tenue; *mandibulis* subæqualibus.

*Nares* obovate, depressiusculæ.

*Digitus* exterior medio basi subtus connexus.

*Cauda* modica.

#### CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA LUSCINIA. S. rufocinerea, subtus cinereo-alba, rectricibus fuscis-rufis, annellis cinereis.—*Ent. Ent. Orn.* vii. p. 400. No. 1.

MOTACILLA LUSCINIA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 260.—*Raii Syn.* p. 78. A. 2.—*Will.* p. 161. t. 41.—*Bris.* iii. p. 397. 13.

LE ROSSIGNOL.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 615. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* ii. p. 24. pl. 138 f. 2.

NIGHTINGALE.—*Br. Zool.* i. No. 154.—*Arct. Zool.* p. 416. A.—*Will. (Ang.)* p. 220. t. 41.—*Raii Syn.* p. 408. 1.—*Id. Sup.* p. 189.—*Bew. Birds.* i. p. 203. 1

† In Greek, the Nightingale has been styled by pre-eminence *Andor*, from *asido*, to sing; in Hebrew, its name is sup-



FIG.1. THE NIGHTINGALE. FIG.2. THE REDSTART.



must recal the charms of those soft evenings in spring, when the air is still and serene, and all nature seems to listen to the songster of the grove. Other birds, the larks, the canaries, the chaffinches, the pettychaps, the linnets, the goldfinches, the blackbirds, the American mocking-birds, excel in the several parts which they perform\*: but the Nightingale combines the whole, and joins sweetness of tone with variety and extent of execution. His notes assume each diversity of character, and receive every change of modulation; not a part is repeated without variation; and the attention

posed to be *Trachmas*: in Arabic, *Enondon*, *Audon*, *Odorbrion*. Its Latin appellation, *Luscinia*, is of uncertain derivation: that of *Philomela* is rather poetic, and signifies *a lover of song*: in Italian, *Rossignuolo*, *Uscignuolo*: in Spanish, *Ruissenol*: in German, *Nachtigal*, *Doerling*, *Tagschläeger*: in Dutch, *Nachtegael*: in Danish, *Nattergal*. The English name is formed from the Saxon word *galan*, to sing.

\* “ I have happened,” says Mr. Barrington, “ to hear the American mocking-bird in great perfection. . . . During the space of a minute, he imitated the woodlark, chaffinch, blackbird, thrush, and sparrow. I was told also that he would bark like a dog; so that the bird seems to have no choice in his imitations, though his pipe comes nearest to our Nightingale of any other bird I have met with. . . . Kalm, indeed, informs us that the natural song is admirable; but this traveller seems not to have been long enough in America to have distinguished what were the genuine notes: with us, mimics do not often succeed but in imitations. I have little doubt, however, but that this bird would be fully equal to the song of the Nightingale in its whole compass; but then, from the attention which the *mocker* pays to any other sort of disagreeable noises, these capital notes would be always debased by a bad mixture.”—*Phil. Trans.* vol. lxiii. p. 2.

is kept perpetually awake, and charmed by the 'endless flexibility of strains. The leader of the vernal chorus begins the prelude with a low and timid voice, and he prepares for the hymn to nature by essaying his powers, and attuning his organs\* : by degrees the sound opens and swells; it bursts with loud and vivid flashes; it flows with smooth volubility; it faints and murmurs; it shakes with rapid and violent articulations: the soft breathings of love and joy are poured from his inmost soul, and every heart beats unison, and melts with delicious languor. But this continual richness might satiate the ear. The strains are at times relieved by pauses†, which bestow dignity and elevation. The mild silence of evening heightens the general effect, and not a rival interrupts the solemn scene.

The Nightingale excels all birds in the softness and mellowness, and also in the duration, of its warble, which sometimes lasts without interruption twenty minutes. Barrington reckons sixteen distinct notes between the highest and lowest keys, and finds that its song fills

\* "I have commonly observed," says Mr. Barrington, "that my Nightingale began softly, like the ancient orators, reserving its breath to swell certain notes, which by this means had a most astonishing effect, and which eludes all verbal description."

† The English bird-catchers, we are told by Mr. Barrington, give these names to some of the Nightingale's notes: *Sweet, Sweet jug, Jug sweet, Water bubble, Pipe rattle, Bell pipe, Scrotty, Skeg, skag, skag, Swat, swat, swaty, Whitlow, whitlow*, from some distant affinity to the words.

a circle of a mile in diameter, which is equal to the power of the human voice. Mr. J. Hunter discovered that the muscles of the larynx are stronger in this species than in any other, and even that they were strongest in the male, which alone sings.

Aristotle, and after him Pliny, affirms that the song of the Nightingale lasts in its full vigour for fifteen days and nights, without intermission, at the time when the trees expand their foliage. But this must be restricted to the wild Nightingales, and even these are not always silent before and after the period assigned; indeed, they sing then with most animation and constancy. They generally begin in the month of April, and cease not until June, about the time of the solstice. Their silence is greatest when the young are excluded from the eggs, and absorb their attention in providing food. The tame Nightingales sing during six months, and their warble has not only more extent, but is more perfectly formed: whence Barrington infers, that in this species, as well as in many others, the male does not chant with the view of amusing the female, or of relieving the tedium of incubation; a conclusion which is entirely just and well founded. The female hatches from instinct; she is prompted by a passion stronger than love itself; and, in that occupation, she must feel a pleasure, which, though we cannot conceive it, must be exquisite, and needs no solace. The male is the most power-

fully stimulated to court the joys of love, and warble his amorous tales; and the opening flush of spring inflames his ardent desires. When the Nightingale is confined, his wants are supplied and anticipated, and he enjoys the vernal mildness through the greater part of the year; every thing concurs to foster his passion, and the melody of his song ceases only for a short interval. Such is also the case with those which are caught after they are grown up; within a few hours they often resume their warble, in all its richness of expression; no longer is it limited by the transient seasons. But the love of liberty is not extinguished in their bosom: for the first week, they can hardly support their forlorn condition; they must be pinioned and fed. However, their passion for warbling in the end surmounts every desponding recollection. The song of other birds, the music of instruments, the accents of a sweet and sonorous voice, powerfully awaken their languid powers. They are eagerly attracted by sweet sounds, and seem particularly fond of *duos*; which shows that they are not insensible to the effects of harmony. But they are not silent auditors; they strike the unison, and strive to eclipse their rivals. It is said that a Nightingale dropped dead at the feet of a person, who sung; another fretted, swelled its throat, and murmured discontent whenever a canary, which was beside it, began to chant, till at last, by its menaces, it silenced its

competitor\*.—Real superiority is not always exempt from jealousy. May not this desire of excelling be the reason why they choose advantageous situations, and delight to sing to the returning echo?

The Nightingales differ much in the quality of their song; in some it is so inferior, that they are reckoned not worth keeping. It is even said, their warble is not the same in every country: the bird-fanciers in England prefer the Nightingales of Surrey to those of Middlesex; as they value most the chaffinches from Essex, and the goldfinches from Kent. This diversity of song has been properly compared to the different dialects of the same language. It may arise from accidental causes: a Nightingale happens to hear the sweet music of some other birds, and, in the glow of emulation, improves his own; he communicates the melody to his young †; and thus it is transmitted, with

\* *Note of M. de Varicourt, Advocate.* M. le Moine, treasurer of France, at Dijon, who takes pleasure in raising Nightingales, remarked also that his pursued bitterly a tame canary, that was kept in the same room, when it approached their cage. But this jealousy turns sometimes into emulation; for Nightingales have been observed to sing better than others, merely because they heard birds whose strains were inferior to theirs. *Certunt inter se, palamque animosa contentio est: victa morte finit sæpe vitam.*—Plin. lib. x. 29. They have been imagined to sing duos, with the interval of a third.

† Pliny relates, that the parent is careful in instructing his young.—*Lib. x. 29, & lib. iv. 9.* ••



various alterations, through the succeeding races.

After the month of June, the Nightingale's warble is gone; a raucous croaking remains, and the sweet Philomela is no longer recognised. No wonder that, in ancient Italy, it then received another name\*. In regard to song, it is quite a different bird, and even the colours of its plumage are somewhat altered.

In the Nightingales, as in other species, there are females which enjoy some prerogatives of the male, and particularly participate of his song. I saw a female of that sort which was tame; her warble resembled that of the male, yet neither so full nor so varied: she retained it until spring, when, resuming the character of the sex, she exchanged it for the occupation of building her nest and laying her eggs, though she had no mate. It would seem that in warm countries, as in Greece, such females are pretty common, both in this species, and many others; at least this is implied in a passage of Aristotle †.

A musician, says Frisch, ought to study the

\* Aristotle, *Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 49.

† "Some males sing like their females, as appears in the genus of the Nightingales; but the female gives over song when she hatches."—*Hist. Anim.* lib. iv. 9.

The enthusiasts of music imagine, that the song of the Nightingale contributes more than warmth to quicken the chick in the egg.

song of the Nightingale, and write it. This is what the Jesuit Kircher formerly attempted, and which has been lately tried by Barrington. Yet the latter owns that he could not succeed; for though the notes were played by an excellent performer on the flute, they bore no resemblance to the Nightingale's warble. Mr. Barrington suspects the difficulty to arise from the impossibility of marking the musical intervals. Their measures are so varied, their transitions so insensibly blended, the succession of their tones so wild and irregular as to soar beyond every constraint of method: but still more difficult it would be, to imitate with a dead instrument the expression of the Nightingale, his tender sighs, and his melting accents. The animated organ of voice can alone aspire to the music of nature; and the rare accomplishment of a soft, clear, flexible, sonorous tone, of a delicate and discerning ear, and of an exquisite sensibility, will sometimes succeed. I knew two persons, who, though they had not noted a single bar, imitated the whole extent of the Nightingale's warble, and so accurately as to deceive the hearer: they were two men, who rather whistled than sung: the one whistled so softly, that it was impossible to perceive the motion of his lips; the other blew with more force, and his attitude was somewhat constrained, though his imitation was still perfect. A few years ago, there was a man at London who attracted the Nightingales with his song; inso-

much that they alighted on him, and allowed themselves to be caught by the hand\*.

But though few can imitate the Nightingale, every person is eager to enjoy its song. It is a domestic of a capricious humour, which neither cheerfulness nor affection can direct. It must be treated with tenderness, and supplied abundantly with the food it likes : the walls should be painted with verdure, and shaded and enriched with foliage; moss should be strewed beneath its feet; it must be guarded against cold, and from troublesome visits†; and every illusion must be employed to dispel the gloom of captivity. Such precautions will succeed. If an old one be caught in the beginning of spring, it will sing in seven or eight days or even sooner‡, and will renew its warble every year, in the month of May and the end of December. If young ones of the first hatch are educated, they will begin to chant as soon as they can eat by themselves; their voice will rise and form by degrees, and attain its full perfection about the end of December. Their warble is much superior to that of the wild Nightingales,

\* *Annual Register*, for 1764. *Aldrovandus*, p. 783.—

“ There are persons, who, putting water into transverse reeds, and blowing into an aperture, imitate the sound perfectly.”—*Pliny*, lib. x. 29.

† It is even recommended to clean it seldom when it sings.

‡ Those which are taken after the 15th of May sing seldom the rest of the season. Those which sing not in a fortnight will never sing, and are often females.

and will flow each day of the year, except in the season of moulting. They will appropriate the notes of other birds, through imitation or rivalry\*, and they will even chant the stiff airs of a Nightingale-pipe. They may be instructed even to sing by turns with a chorus, and repeat their couplet at the proper time. They may be also taught to speak any language. The sons of the Emperor Claudius had some Nightingales that spoke Greek and Latin†. But what Pliny subjoins is more marvellous; that these birds prepared every day new expressions, and even of considerable length, with which they entertained their masters‡. The arts of flattery might work upon the understandings of young princes; but a philosopher like Pliny ought not to have credited such a story, nor have published it under the sanction of his name. Several authors accordingly, resting on the authority of the Roman naturalist, have amplified the marvellous tale. Gesner, among others, quotes a letter from a person of credit (as we shall find), who mentions two Nightingales belonging to an inn-keeper at Ratisbon, which passed the night discoursing in German on the political interests of Europe; on the events already happened, and on those which might be expected, and

\* Pliny, lib. iv. 9. & lib. x. 29.

† Pliny, lib. x. 42.

‡ These young princes were Drusus and Britannicus.

which actually took place. It is true that the author of the letter endeavours 'to render the story more probable, by telling us that the birds only repeated what they heard of some officers, or deputies from the Diet, who frequented the tavern; but still the whole is so absurd as to merit no serious refutation.

I have said that the old prisoners had two seasons for singing; the months of May and December. But here art interferes, and again diverts the course of nature. The chamber is darkened, and the birds are silent. If the light be restored by degrees, it will produce the effect of spring, and the Nightingales will resume their warble. If we have a sufficient number of old singers, we may, by successive manœuvres, and by hastening or retarding the time of moulting, be entertained with continual melody. Some of the young birds which are raised sing during the night; but most of them begin to chant at eight or nine of the morning in the winter solstice, and gradually earlier as the days lengthen.

One would hardly believe that a song so varied as that of the Nightingale is confined within the narrow limits of a single octave; yet this is ascertained by an observer of information and taste\*. He remarks, indeed, that some tones shoot like a gleam to the second

\* Dr. Remond, who has translated several pieces of the *Collection Académique*.

octave; but these are accidental, and occasioned by violent efforts of voice, as when a person happens to blow into a flute with excessive force, he produces sounds uncommonly shrill.

Though slow in acquiring it, the Nightingale is susceptible of an unshaken attachment. It distinguishes the step of its master, and welcomes his approach with the music of joy; and even in the moulting season, it idly strains its enfeebled organs to express the warmth of its heart. Sometimes it dies of melancholy at the loss of its benefactor; and, if it survives the shock, it is tardy in forming new attachments\*. —Such is ever the case with shy and timid characters; their intimacies are slow and difficult, but, once established, they are ardent and durable.

The Nightingales are also very solitary; they migrate alone, appearing in April and May, and retiring in September†. The union between the sexes in the spring seems to increase their aversion to society: they select certain tracts, and oppose the encroachments of others on their territories. But this conduct is not occasioned by rivalry, as some have supposed; it is suggested by the solicitude for the maintenance of their young, and regulated by the extent of ground necessary to afford sufficient

\* M. Le Moine.

† In Italy, they arrive in March and April, and retire about the beginning of November. In England, they arrive in April and May, and retire in the month of August.

food. The distances between their nests are much smaller in the rich counties, than in others which reluctantly yield a penurious supply.

They begin to build, their nest about the end of April, or the opening of May. The materials are leaves, rushes, stalks of coarse grass, and the inside is lined with small fibres and roots, horse-hair, and a sort of bur. They are placed in a favourable aspect, turned somewhat to the east, near water, and commonly on the lowest branches of shrubs, as gooseberries, white-thorns, sloes, elm-hedges, &c. or in a tuft of grass, and even on the ground under bushes. And hence their eggs and their young, and sometimes the mother, are often devoured by dogs, foxes, pole-cats, weasels, adders, &c.

In our climate, the female usually lays five eggs\*, of an uniform greenish-brown, except that the brown predominates at the obtuse end, and the green at the acute. She hatches alone, and never leaves her station but for food, and then only in the evening, and when hard pressed with hunger : during her absence, the male seems to cast an eye on the nest. In eighteen or twenty days the young begin to burst their shells, and the number of the cock birds is generally double that of the hens. And hence, when in April a cock is caught, the hen soon finds another mate, the loss of which is

\* Aristotle says five or six; which may be true in the warm climate of Greece.

supplied by a third, and so on ; insomuch that the successive seizure of three or four males has little effect on the multiplication of the brood. The hen disgorges the food for the young, as in the canaries ; and the cock assists. He now ceases to warble, and is totally absorbed in the concerns of his family : and even during incubation, it is said, he seldom sings near the nest, lest he discover it ; but if a person approach it, his paternal solicitude drowns the suggestions of prudence, and his shrieks only increase the danger.—In less than a fortnight the young are fledged, and at this time we ought to remove those intended to be trained. After they are flown, the parents make a second hatch, and then a third ; but the last fails, if the cold sets in early. In hot countries, they breed even four times annually ; but the late hatches are always more scanty. .

Man, who is never satisfied till he can use and abuse what he possesses, has contrived to make the Nightingales breed in their prison. The great obstacle to his plans was their ardent love of liberty ; but he has diverted this original bent by fostering more violent passions, the impulse for propagation, and the attachment to offspring. A pair of Nightingales are let loose into a large volery, or rather in a corner of a garden planted with ivy, horn-beams, and other shrubs, and inclosed with nets. This is the easiest and surest method ; but there is another which also may be em-



ployed. The cock and hen are put into separate cages in a darkish closet, and are fed every day at the same hours; the cages are sometimes left open, that they may become acquainted with their apartment, and in April they are entirely opened, and not shut again; at which time the birds are supplied with the materials usual for constructing their nests, such as oak-leaves, moss, plucked dog-grass, deer's wool, horse-hairs, earth and water; but the water must be removed when the female hatches\*. A contrivance has also been used to settle Nightingales in places which they never visited: the brood are caught with the parent birds, and conveyed to a spot which resembles most their former haunt: the cock and hen are placed in two cages near the nest of young, and the cages are artfully opened while the person remains concealed: the parents run to the cries of their nestlings, and foster and continue to educate them: and it is said they will return to the same part the succeeding year †; but it must afford them conveniences and proper food ‡.

If a person would raise young Nightingales, he should prefer those of the first hatch, and give them what instructors he thinks proper;

\* *Traité du Rossignol*, p. 96.

† *Traité du Rossignol*, p. 96.

‡ "When a place affords abundance of food and convenience for nestling, one had better catch or destroy the Nightingales, since others will always return."—*Frisch*.

but the best, in my opinion, are other Nightingales, especially the best singers.

In the month of August, both the old and young Nightingales emerge from the woods, and haunt the bushes, the quick-set hedges, and the new-ploughed fields, where they find greater plenty of worms and insects: perhaps this general movement is only preparatory to their approaching flight. They winter not in France, nor in England, Germany, Italy, Greece, &c. \*; and as we are assured that no Nightingales occur in Africa † ‡, they would seem to retire into Asia §. And this opinion is the more probable, as they inhabit Persia, China, and even Japan,

\* The Nightingale disappears in autumn, and appears not again till spring, says Aristotle.—*Hist. Anim.* lib. v. 9.

† *Traité du Rossignol*, p. 21.—Indeed the voyager Le Marie speaks of a Nightingale at Senegal, but which sings not so well as ours.

‡ Sonnini assures us, that there are Nightingales in Africa, at least in the eastern quarter of that part of the world. They visit lower Egypt in the autumn, and I have seen many, says Sonnini, during winter, in the cool and fertile plains of the Delta. I have also witnessed their migration to the islands of the Archipelago. It appears that these birds occur in Syria and other provinces of Asia still more frequently. In several provinces of Asia, in Natolia, for instance, the Nightingale is common, and does not quit either the forests or the thickets where it has taken up its habitation. During their passage in the islands of the Levant, and while they remain on a foreign shore, they never sing. W.

§ Olina. They are found among the willows and olives of Judea.—*Hasselquist*.

where they are highly esteemed, since the fine warblers are sold, it is said, for twenty cobangs\*. They are spread generally through Europe, even to Sweden and Siberia†, where they chant delightfully; but there are countries in Europe, as well as in Asia, which are not suited to them, and where they never fix their abode: for instance, in Bugey as far as the heights of Nantua; a part of Holland, Scotland, Ireland‡, the northern part of Wales, and even of all England except Yorkshire§; the territory of the

\* Kæmpfer.—The cobang is equal to forty taels, and the tael worth about half a crown; so that the twenty cobangs amount to an hundred pounds sterling. Nightingales were much dearer in Rome, as we shall see in the article of the white Nightingale.

† Gmelin speaks with raptures of the charming banks of a rivulet in Siberia, called *Beressouka*, and of the warble of the birds heard there,\* among which the Nightingale holds the first rank.

‡ Aldrovandus.—I know that the fact has been doubted with regard to Ireland, Scotland, and Holland; but these assertions must not be strictly interpreted. No more is meant than that the Nightingales are extremely rare in those countries; and the case must be so where there are few woods or bushes, little heat, few insects, few fine nights, &c.

§ Mr. Pennant's words are these:—"It is not found in North Wales; or in any of the English counties north of it, except Yorkshire, where they are met with in great plenty about Doncaster. It is also remarkable," Mr. Pennant adds, "that this bird does not migrate so far west as Cornwall; a county where the seasons are so mild, that myrtles flourish in open air during the whole year." . T.

Daulians near Delphi; the kingdom of Siam, &c.\* They are universally known to be birds of passage, and those which are confined appear impatient and restless in the spring and autumn, especially during the night, their usual periods of migration: a proof that their peregrinations are occasioned by incitements very different from the want of food, or the desire of warmth.

This bird is peculiar to the old continent; and though the missionaries and voyagers speak of the Nightingales of Canada, that of Louisiana, that of the Antilles, &c. the latter is only a kind of mocking-bird; and that of Louisiana is the same, since, according to Dupratz, it is found in Martinico and Guadaloupe; and it is manifest, from Father Charlevoix's account, that the one of Canada is either not a Nightingale at all, or is of a very degenerate sort†. It is indeed possible that the Nightingale, which visits the northern parts of Europe and Asia, may have traversed the narrow seas, which, at those high latitudes, divide the two continents; or it might have been swept across by a violent wind, or carried by some ship: and as the cold, raw, unfertile state‡ of the country has

\* Voyages de Struys, t. i. p. 53.

† "The Canada Nightingale," says this missionary, "is nearly the same with respect to figure, but has not half the song."—*Nouvelle France*, t. iii. p. 157.

‡ I know that there are many insects in America; but most of them are so large and so well armed, that the Night-

been found to be unfavourable to the song of birds, it would lose the sweetness of its melody, as the Nightingale's warble in Scotland \* is inferior to what is heard in the groves of Italy. This seems to have been really the case; and our Nightingale has been transplanted into Canada; for the imperfect account of Charlevoix has since been confirmed by a physician †, residing at Quebec, and by some travellers.

As these birds, at least the males, pass the nights of spring in singing, the ancients believed that during that season they never slept ‡; and hence they inferred that the flesh had a soporific quality, and imagined that its heart and eyes laid under a person's head would keep him awake. This notion spread; and being transferred into the arts, the Nightingale became the emblem of vigilance. But the moderns, who have observed with greater accuracy, find that in the season of love the Nightingales sleep during the day, and that in winter their diurnal slumbers precede the resuming of their warble. They even dream, and their visions have the complexion of their

ingale, far from preying upon them, would scarcely be able to defend himself against their attacks.

\* Aldrovandus, who cites Petrus Apponensis. This bird must sometimes, therefore, appear in Scotland.

† This physician wrote to M. Salerne, that our Nightingale is found in Canada, as well as here, in the season. It occurs also in Gaspesia, according to Father Le Clerc, but does not sing so well.

‡ Hesiod and Ælian.

character\*; for they hum their airs with a low voice.—Many fables have been propagated with regard to the Nightingale, as usual with whatever is celebrated. In the midst of its warble, it is attracted by the fixed looks of a viper, or, according to others, of a toad, and is gradually deprived of its voice; and at last, yielding to the fascination, it sinks into the open mouth of the reptile. It has been said that the parents select from their young those which discover talents, and either destroy the rest, or allow them to perish of want. (We must suppose that they save the females.) It has been alleged that they chant better when persons listen to them than when alone. All these errors originate from our proneness to ascribe to animals our own weaknesses, passions, and vices.

Nightingales that are kept in the cage commonly bathe after singing. Hebert remarks, that this is the first thing they do in the evening, when the candles are lighted. He also tells a circumstance which it may be proper to guard against, that they are apt to dart towards the flame; and that an excellent cock bird, happening to escape from the cage, flew into the fire, and was burnt to death. •

These birds have a sort of vibrating motion, and by turns raise and depress their body. All the males which I have seen had this singular

property ; but I could not perceive it in a female which I kept two years. In all of them, the tail oscillates distinctly upward and downwards, which has manifestly induced Linnæus to range them with the *motacillæ*, or wagtails.

Nightingales hide themselves in the thickest bushes : they live upon aquatic and other insects, small worms, the eggs, or rather nymphs, of ants ; they also eat figs, berries, &c. But as it would be difficult always to provide such food, several kinds of paste have been contrived, which agree very well with them. I shall, in the notes, give the receipt of a bird-fancier of my acquaintance\*, because it has been found to answer, and I have seen a nightingale which with this subsistence reached the age of seventeen years. It began to

\* M. Le Moine, whom I have already quoted on several occasions, gives different pastes, according to the age of the bird. The first is composed of sheep's heart, crumbs of bread, hemp-seed, and parsley well pounded, and mixed : it must be new-made every day. The second consists of equal parts, hashed omelet and bread-crumbs, with a little chopped parsley. The third is more compound, and requires more care. Take two pounds of lean beef, half a pound of chicken pease, as much of yellow or peeled millet, of the seed of white poppy, and of sweet almonds, a pound of white honey, two ounces of flower, twelve yolks of fresh eggs, two or three ounces of fresh butter, and a gros and a half of saffron in powder ; dry the whole well ; heat it a long time, stirring it constantly, and reduce it to a very fine dust, and pass it through a silk sieve. This powder keeps very well, and serves about a year.

turn grey the seventh year; at fifteen, its wing and tail quills were entirely white; its legs, or rather *tarsus*, had much swelled, by the excessive growth of the scales which cover these parts; and it had a sort of knots at the toes, like persons who are gouty; and it was necessary, from time to time, to whet the point of its upper mandible\*. But still it had none of the ills of old age; it was ever joyous, and warbled as in its earlier years, and caressed the hand that fed it. We may remark, that this Nightingale had never paired. Love seems to abridge the period of life; but it fills up the void of time, and accomplishes the intention of nature. Without it the delightful emotions of the parent would never be known: it prolongs the existence into futurity, and confers immortality on the species. So rich the compensation it makes for the loss of a few days of injoyous and decrepit old age!

It has been found, that heating medicines and perfumes incited the Nightingales to warble; that flour-mites and dung-maggots were the most proper to give when they were too fat, and figs when too lean; and that spiders served them as a purge. It has been recommended to make them take this purge once a

\* The nails also of Nightingales that are kept in the cage grow much at first, so as to become troublesome from their excessive length. I have seen some which formed a circle of five lines diameter. But in extreme age they disappear almost entirely.



year; a dozen spiders is the proper dose. They should also have nothing that is salt.

When they swallow any indigestible substance, they regorge it, in little pellets like the birds of prey; and indeed, though they are small, they merit that appellation. Belon admires *their foresight in not swallowing a small worm before they have killed it*; but it is probable that they only want to avoid the painful feeling which living creatures might occasion in their stomach.

All sorts of snares succeed with the Nightingale; they are not shy, though rather timorous. If they be let loose in a place where there are other birds in cages, they fly directly towards these; and this is one method among many others of catching them. The song of their companions, the sound of musical instruments, or of a fine voice, as we have already seen, and even cries that are disagreeable, as the mewling of a cat fastened to the root of a tree and teased on purpose, succeed equally well. They have a stupid staring curiosity, and are the dupes of every thing\*. They are caught by the call, by lime-twigs in tit-mice traps, and nooses set where the ground is newly ploughed†, where

\* *Avis miratrix*, says Linnæus.

† Sometimes they are very numerous in a single district. Belon witnessed that, in a village of the forest of Ardenne, the shepherd-boys caught every day each a score, with many other small birds. It was a year of drought, and all

are previously scattered the nymphs of ants, mites, or whatever resembles these, as small bits of the whites of hard eggs, &c. The gins ought to be made of silk strings, and not of packthread, which would entangle their feathers, and occasion a loss of some that would retard their song. On the contrary, to hasten their moulting, a few feathers should be plucked from the tail, that the new ones may sprout the sooner; for while nature is employed in the reproduction of the plumage, she suspends the song.

These birds are delicious food when fat, and in this respect they rival the ortolans. In Gascony, they are fatted for the table. This reminds us of the whim of the Emperor Heliogabalus, who ate the tongues of Nightingales, of peacocks,\* &c. and the famous dish of the comedian Æsop, which consisted of an hundred birds, all noted for their song or their prattle\*.

As it is a matter of some consequence not to lose time in breeding females, many marks have been given to distinguish the cocks. Their eye, it is said, is larger, their head rounder, their bill longer, and broader at the

the "pools," says Belon, "were elsewhere dried up . . . for they live then in the forests, where there is some moisture."

\* Pliny, lib. x. 51. This dish was valued at <sup>60</sup>six hundred sesterces (near five thousand pounds!). Aldrovandus also ate Nightingales, and found them good.

base, especially if viewed from below ; the higher plumage more coloured, the belly not so white, the tail more feathered, and broader when displayed : they begin sooner to chirp, and their chirp is better supported : their anus is more prominent in the love season, and they remain long in one place, resting on one foot, while the hen runs backwards and forwards in the cage. Others add, that the male has two or three quills in each wing whose outer surface is black, and their legs, if viewed in a side light, appear reddish, while those of the female look whitish : however, the hen has the same motion of the tail ; and, when cheerful, she does not walk, but hops like the cock. To these we may join the more decisive differences of internal structure. The males which I dissected in the spring had two very large testicles of an egg shape ; the largest of the two (for they were not equal) was three lines and a half in length, and two in breadth : the *ovaria* of the females which I observed at the same time contained eggs of different sizes, from a quarter of a line to one line in diameter.

The plumage of this bird is much inferior to its warble. All the upper side of the body is brown, more or less rusty ; the throat, breast, and belly, are of a white-grey ; the fore part of the neck, of a deeper grey ; the inferior coverts of the tail and wings, rusty-white, and of a ferruginous cast, in the males ; the quills of the wings, of a brownish-grey verging on

rufous, and the tail of a brown tinged more with rufous: the bill is brown, and also the feet, but with a shade of flesh-colour: the ground colour of the feathers is deep cinereous.

It has been alleged, that the Nightingales "bred in the southern climates have a darker plumage, and those raised in the northern countries a whiter. The young cocks are also said to be whiter than young hens; and in general the colour of the young ones is the most variable before moulting, that is, before the end of July; and it is then so like that of the redstart, that it would be difficult to distinguish them unless by the difference of their chirping\*; accordingly these two species are related†.

Total length, six inches and a quarter; the bill, eight lines, yellow within, and having a large opening; the edges of the upper mandible scalloped near the point; the *tarsus*, an inch; the outer toe connected to the middle one at its base; the nails slender, the hind one the strongest; the alar extent nine inches; the tail thirty lines, consisting of twelve quills, and exceeding the wings sixteen lines.

Intestinal tube, from the stomach to the anus, seven inches and a quarter; the *œsophagus* near two inches, and dilating into a sort of

\* The young cock nightingale calls *ziscra, ziscra*, according to Olina; *croi, croi*, according to others. Each person has his manner of hearing and expressing these indeterminate sounds, which are themselves so variable.

† It is even said that they breed together.

glandulous sac before its insertion into the gizzard, which is muscular, and occupies the left side of the lower belly, and not covered by the intestines, but only by a lobe of the liver: there are two exceedingly small *cæca*, and a gall bladder: the tip of the tongue is furnished with threads, and truncated, which was known to the ancients\*; and seems to have given rise to the fable of Philomela, whose tongue was cut out.

\* Aristotle, Hist. Anim. lib. ix. 15. We must observe that, according to the Greeks, who are here the original authors, it was Progne that was metamorphosed into a Nightingale, and Philomela, her sister, into a swallow. The Latin writers transposed or confounded the names, which has given currency to the error.

## VARIETIES OF THE NIGHTINGALE.

I. THE GREAT NIGHTINGALE \*. It is certain that of Nightingales there are varieties; but naturalists are much divided in regard to the haunts of the large kind of these birds, whether they frequent the plains, or the margin of waters. Schwenckfeld asserts that the small ones settle on the pleasant knolls: Aldrovandus says, that they live in the woods: others, on the contrary, maintain with more probability, that such as inhabit the dry forests which exclude the rain and the dew, are the smallest sort. In Anjou, there is a kind of Nightingales which are much larger than ordinary, and which lodge and nestle among the hornbeams; and the little ones prefer the sides of rivulets and pools. Frisch speaks also of a breed somewhat larger than the common sort, and which sing more in the night, and in a manner rather different. Lastly, the author of the treatise on the Nightingale admits three kinds; the largest, strongest, and best singers lodge among the bushes near water; the middle-sized live in the plains: and the smallest

\* *Luscinia Major*.—*Bris*.

*Slowick Wickszy*.—*Rzacynski*.

*Grosse Nachtigall*.—*Schwenck*.

*Spross-Vogel*.—*Frisch*.

dwell in the mountains. From all this it appears that there is one or more breeds of large Nightingales, but they are attached to a very permanent abode. The large Nightingale is the most common in Silesia; its plumage is cinereous with a mixture of rufous, and it is reckoned a better singer than the small kind.

II. THE 'WHITE NIGHTINGALE'\*. This variety was very rare at Rome. Pliny relates, that a present was made of one to Agrippina, wife of the Emperor Claudius, which cost 6000 sesterces †; valued by Budé at 15,000 crowns in his time, and which must be equal to double that sum at present. Aldrovandus however asserts, that there is some mistake in the figures, and that the amount is still greater. That author saw a white Nightingale, but mentions no particulars with regard to it. The Marquis d'Argence has one of this colour at present, which though young is very large, and its warble formed, but not so powerful as that of the old ones. "Its head and neck," says the marquis, "are of the finest white; its wings and tail of the same colour: the feathers on the middle of the back are of a very light brown, and intermixed with small white feathers . . . those under the belly are of a white-grey. This stranger seemed to cause wonderful jealousy in an old Nightingale which I have had for some time."

\* *Luscinia Candida*.—*Briss.*

† Pliny, *Hist. Nat. lib. x. 29.*

## FOREIGN BIRD

RELATED TO THE NIGHTINGALE.

## THE FOUDI-JALA \*.

THIS nightingale, which is found in Madagascar, is of the same size with ours, and resembles it in many respects; only its legs and wings are shorter, and the colours of its plumage different. Its head is rufous, with a brown spot on each side; its throat white; its breast light rufous; its belly brown, tinged with rufous and olive; all the upper part of its body, including what appears of the wing and tail quills, of an olive-brown; its bill, and feet, deep brown. Brisson, who first described this spe-

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA MADAGASCARIENSIS. S. fusco-olivacea, subtus rufo-fusca, capite rufo, gutture albo, macula pone oculos fusca.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 507. No. 2.

MOZACILLA MADAGASCARIENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 962.

LUSCINIA MADAGASCARIENSIS.—*Bris.* iii. p. 401. 14. t. 22. f. 1.

LE FOUDI-JALA.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 73.

MADAGASCAR WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 412. 3.

## HABITAT

in Madagascar.

W.



cies, mentions not whether it sings ; unless we suppose that the name of nightingale is alone sufficient to mark that faculty.

Total length, six inches five lines ; the bill, nine lines ; the *tarsus*, nine lines and a half ; the alar extent, eight inches and a half ; the tail, two inches and a half, composed of twelve quills, somewhat tapering, and exceeding the wings by twenty lines.





THE PETTYCHAPS.

## THE FAUVETTE\*.

*First Species.*

IN the dreary season of winter, nature sinks into inactivity and torpor. The insects no more appear; the reptiles cease to crawl; the vegetables are stripped of their verdure, and arrested in their growth; the inhabitants of the air have perished, or retired to happier climes; those of the waters are confined to their icy prisons, and most of the land animals have repaired to their caves and subterraneous mansions; the whole is a boundless picture of desolation, and languor, and death. The vernal ap-

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

*SYLVIA HORTENSIS.* S. griseo fusca, subtus rufescente-alba, superciliis albidis, rectricibus fuscis extus griseo marginatis, extima oblique dimidiata alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. 507. No. 30.

*MOTACILLA HORTENSIS.*—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 955.

*CUNEO.*—*Bris.* iii. p. 372. 2.

*LA FAUVETTE.*—*Buff. Pl. Ent.* 579. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 75. pl. 139. f. 1.

*PARRYSON.*—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 413. 3.

## HABITAT

in Europæ campis et hortis; satis numerosa.—6 pollices longus. W.

pearance of the feathered visitors of the grove proclaims the return of animation and of joy. Nature awakens from her lethargy, and resumes her enlivening powers. The trees spread their leafy shade; the vegetable tribes glow with their richest tints; the scene smiles around, it warbles on every spray, and a genial flush heightens the whole.

Of the joyous guests of the woods, the Fauvettes are the most numerous and the most charming: lively and volatile, each motion is expressive, each accent is cheerful, and each gesture displays the tenderness of love. These pretty warblers arrive when the trees put forth their leaves, and begin to expand their blossoms; they disperse through the whole extent of our plains: some inhabit our gardens, others prefer the clumps and avenues; some conceal themselves among the reeds, and many retire to the heart of large woods. Thus the Fauvettes are dispersed through every spot, and their sprightly movements, and their cheerful airs, enchant each scene\*.

Possessed of every grace and elegance, beauty alone was wanted to perfection. But Nature has here checked her profusion, and withheld decoration. Their plumage is dull and obscure, except in two or three species, which are

\* "In summer, a person cannot walk into any shady spot beside brooks, but he will hear the Fauvettes warbling even at the distance of a quarter of a league: this bird is known therefore in all countries."—BÉLON.

slightly spotted: all the rest are stained with dark shades of whitish, grey, and rusty.

The first species, which is the pettychaps, is of the size of the nightingale. The robe of the nightingale is brown-rufous, that of the pettychaps is brown-grey: it is also lightly tinged with rusty-grey, on the fringe of the coverts of the wings, and along the webs of the small quills: the large quills are of a blackish cinereous; and so are also the quills of the tail, of which the two outermost are white on their exterior side, and at the tips on both sides: over the eye there extends, from the bill, a white line like an eyebrow; and under the eye, and a little behind, there is a blackish spot; and this spot borders with the white on the throat, which has a rusty cast on the sides, of a deeper colour under the belly.

This is the largest of all the Fauvettes, except the Alpine warbler, of which we shall treat in the sequel. Its total length is six inches; its alar extent, eight inches ten lines; its bill, from the tip to the angles, eight lines and a half; its tail, two inches six lines; its foot, ten lines.

It lives with other smaller species in gardens, in thickets, and in fields of pease and beans: they all sit on the stakes which prop these; and there they frolic, build their nest, and continually go out and in, till harvest, which precedes their departure, forces them from this asylum, or rather this abode of love.

It is amusing to see them play together, grow angry, and chase each other: their attacks are gentle, and their quarrels commonly end in songs. The pettychaps was regarded as the emblem of volatile amours, as the turtle was the image of ardent and steady love; yet the pettychaps, though lively and joyous, maintains a faithful and strong attachment, while the turtle, all sad and plaintive, infringes shamefully on the connubial rights. The male of the pettychaps lavishes a thousand little offices on his mate during incubation; he shares with her the solicitude for their tender young, and does not abandon her after the education of their family: his attachment outlives the appetite of fruition.

The nest is composed of dry herbs and stalks of hemp, and lined with a little hair\*. It contains commonly five eggs, which the mother deserts if they are touched: this approach of an enemy she regards as a bad omen for the expected family. Nor is it possible to deceive her with the eggs of other birds. "I have often set strange eggs under several small birds," says Viscount Querhoënt; "those of the titmice under wrens, those of the linnet under the redbreast: but I could never make the Fau-

\* The Fauvette is not careful to conceal her nest; she often places it in exposed situations, such as on the tops of bushes, and sometimes even in the garden rose. It is therefore very liable to be blown away by the wind, or taken by the boys.

vettes hatch them; they always broke them: and, when I substituted other young ones, they soon killed them." From what wonderful instinct, if we believe the bulk of birdcatchers, and even of observers, do the pettychaps hatch the egg which the cuckoo drops into their nest after destroying their own; and how can they foster the little ugly usurper as their own progeny? However, it is the babbling Fauvette or warbler to which this trust is the oftenest committed, and perhaps that species has different instincts.—The pettychaps is of a timid character; it flies from birds as small as itself, and with better reason it makes a rapid retreat from the shrike, its formidable enemy: but the danger is forgotten the moment it is past, and the little warbler again resumes its cheerfulness, and frisks, and sings. It is heard in the thickest boughs, where it is generally concealed; at times it pops out to the edge of a bush, but hides itself again in an instant, particularly in the heat of the day. In the morning it gathers the dew; and, after the fall of a summer's shower, it trips among the wet leaves, and brushes off the drops.

Almost all the Fauvettes retire at the same time, in the middle of autumn, and scarcely any remain in October \*. Their departure pre-

\* Sonnini tells us that these birds pass the winter in the Levant; he saw them scattered over the islands in the Archipelago, and on the plains of Candia; he also observed them in Lower Egypt.



- cedes the cold weather, which destroys the insects, and blasts the small fruits, on which they subsist; for they not only catch flies, and gnats, and search for worms, but they eat the berries of ivy, mezereon, and brambles: they grow fat during the maturity of the elders, dwarf elders, and privets\*.

The bill is slightly scalloped near the point: the tongue is fringed at the tip, and appears forked: the inside of the bill is yellow at the bottom, and black towards the extremity: the gizzard is muscular, and preceded by a dilatation of the *œsophagus*: the intestines are seven inches and a half long: there is generally no gall-bladder, but two small *cæca*: the outer toe is connected to the middle one by the first *phalanx*, and the outer nail is the strongest of all. The testicles in a male caught the 18th of June were five lines lengthwise, and the smaller diameter four lines. A female was dissected on the fourth of the same month, and the oviduct was much dilated, and contained an egg, and the *ovarium* presented a cluster of unequal sizes.

In the southern provinces of France, and in Italy, most of the Fauvettes are called epicurean warblers (*bec-figues*); an error to which the nomenclators with their generic term *ficedula* have not a little contributed. Aldrovandus

\* They eat cherries, grapes, and figs; and when, says Sonnini, they feed on those succulent fruits, their flesh becomes as delicate as that of the ortolan.

gives a confused and incomplete account of the species comprehended; and he seems not sufficiently acquainted with them. Frisch remarks, that the genus of the Fauvettes is the most obscure and indetermined in the whole of ornithology. We have endeavoured to throw on it some light, by following the order of nature. All our descriptions, except that of a single species, have been drawn from life; and it is from our own observations, and from the facts communicated by intelligent observers, that we have delineated the distinctions and the similitudes, and the habits which obtain among these little birds\*.

\* Nothing can exceed the confusion which nomenclators have introduced into the article of the pettychaps, or Fauvette. Gmelin and Latham have transferred the Greek name, *hippolais*, which Linnæus had injudiciously applied to that bird, and have bestowed it on another bird about one third of the size; and at the same time they have given the pettychaps, or Fauvette, the epithet *hortensis*. Yet while these two authors agree in the application of the terms, the one asserts that the *motacilla hortensis* is larger than the red-pole or black-cap, but the other represents it as smaller than even the linnet.

## THE PASSERINETTE, or LITTLE FAUETTE \*.

### *Second Species.*

WE adopt the name *PasserINETTE*, which this bird receives in Provence. This is a small Fauette, and is distinguished from the preceding, not only by its size, but by its plumage, and by the monotonous burthen *tip, tip*, of its short song, which it continually repeats as it hops among the bushes. A very delicate white-grey covers all the fore and under part of the body, receiving a very light brown cast on the sides: an uniform ash-grey is spread

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA PASSERINA. S. grisea, subtus cinereo-alba, rufescente varia, abdomine albo, superciliis albidis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 508. No. 5.

MOTACILLA PASSERINA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 954.

CURRUC MINOR.—*Bris.* iii. p. 374. 3.

MUSCICAPA SECUNDA ALDROV. (BORIN.)—*Raii Syn.* p. 81. 10.—*Will.* p. 158.—*Id. (Angl.)* p. 216.

LA PASSERINETTE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 579. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 89. pl. 139. f. 2.

PASSERINE WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 414. 4.

### HABITAT

in Europa.—5½ pollices longus.

W.

over the whole of the upper part, and stained somewhat with blackish on the great quills of the wings and of the tail: there is a small whitish streak which passes over the eye. Its length is five inches three lines; and its alar extent eight inches.

The Passerinette makes its nest near the ground, among shrubs: we saw one in a gooseberry-bush in a garden; it was like a half cup, composed of dry herbs, rough on the outside, but finer and better interwoven within: it contained four eggs, of a dirty-white ground, with green and greenish spots, spread thicker near the large end. The iris is chesnut, and there is a very small scalloping near the point of the upper mandible: the hind-nail is the strongest: the feet are lead-coloured: the intestinal tube from the gizzard to the anus is seven inches, and there are two inches from the gizzard to the *pharynx*: the gizzard is muscular, and preceded by a dilatation of the *œsophagus*: no gall-bladder could be found, nor *cæcum*.—The subject was a female: the rudiments of the eggs in the ovarium were of unequal sizes.

## THE BLACK-HEADED FAU- VETTE\*.

### *Third Species.*

ARISTOTLE, enumerating the various changes which the revolution of the seasons produces on the feathered tribes, says that the beccafico or epicurean warbler is metamorphosed in autumn into the black-cap ‡. Naturalists have been

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA. S. testacea, subtus cinerea, pileo obscuro.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 508. No. 6.

MOTACILLA ATRICAPILLA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 970.

CURRUCA ATRICAPILLA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 380. 6.

ATRICAPILLA, seu FICEDULA ALDROV.—*Raii Syn.* p. 79.

A. 8.—*Will.* p. 162. t. 41.

LA FAUVETTE à TÊTE NOIRE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* t. 580. f. 1. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 92. pl. 140. f. 1.

BLACK-CAP †.—*Br. Zool.* i. p. 148.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 418.

F.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 226.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 415. 5.—*Bew. Birds,* i. p. 225.

### HABITAT

in Anglia, passimque in Europa.—5½ pollices longa. W.

† In Greek, Μελανορμφος, Μελανοκεφαλός: in Italian, Capinera, Capinegro: in German, Grasz-muckl, Grasz Spatz: in Saxon, Monch, Monchlein: in Swiss, Schwartz Kopff: in Bohemian, Plask: in Polish, Figoiadka.

‡ Hist. Anim. lib. ix. 49.



H. 1. THE BEECHER, OR, THE BEECHER WARBLER.



much puzzled with this assertion ; some regard it as marvellous, others reject it as incredible\* : but it is really neither the one nor the other ; and the explication is very easy. In fact, the young black-caps have, through the whole summer, the plumage of the epicurean warblers, and only assume their proper garb after the first moulting : and this is the interpretation which Pliny gives †.

Aldrovandus, Johnston, and Frisch, after describing the black-cap, introduce a second species, which has a brown head ‡ : but this is only the female of the former, and the sole difference of appearance between the two sexes consists in the colour of the head. In the male, a black cap covers the back of the head and the crown, as far as the eyes ; below and round the neck the plumage is of a slate-grey, lighter on the throat, attenuated into white on the breast, and shaded with blackish on the sides :

\* *Niphus*, in Aldrovandus, strains at a solution of the problem, by distinguishing a great and little *black-head* ; the latter not being transmuted into a beccafico, but the other being never seen at the same time, and actually undergoing the metamorphosis. " The Bolognese bird-catchers," says Aldrovandus, " thus distinguish them ;" yet he will not admit that opinion, and the moment after he confounds the black cap with the bulfinch.

† Hist. Nat. lib. x. 44.

‡ *Atricapilla altera*.—*Johnst.*

*Atricapilla alia castaneo vertice*.—*Aldrov.*

*Curruca vertice subrubro*.—*Frisch.*



the back is of a brown-grey, lighter on the exterior surface of the quills, deeper on the lower ones, and stained with an olive-tint. The bird is five inches five lines in length; the alar extent eight inches and a half.\*

The black-cap has the most pleasant and the fullest warble of all the Fauvettes. It is somewhat like the nightingale's song, and we enjoy it much longer; for several months after the groves no more echo Philomel's notes, the music of the black-cap is heard. Its airs are easy and light, and consist of a succession of modulations of small compass, but sweet, flexible, and blended: they express the happiness and tranquillity that dwell in their haunts. The sensible heart warms with delicious emotions at accents inspired by nature, and flowing from that felicity which she has bestowed.

The male shows a tender concern for his female: not only does he carry flies, worms, and ants to her, but he relieves the languor of incubation, and sits by turns. The nest is placed near the ground, and carefully concealed in a coppice: it contains four or five eggs, of a greenish hue, with spots of light brown\*. The young ones grow in a few days; and though

\* The nest is generally placed in the little eglantine bushes, at two or three feet from the ground, on the way-sides, in the woods, and at the foot of hedges. It is small, shallow, and made of dry herbs lined with hair. If the eggs are disturbed, the female generally leaves them. W.

but slightly fledged, they will leap out of the nest when a person comes near it, and never will return. The black-cap has generally only one annual hatch in France. Olina says, that it makes two in Italy; and such must be the case with many other kinds of birds which inhabit a warmer climate, where the season of love is prolonged.

At its arrival in the spring, if the insects are destroyed by the relapse of cold, the black-cap has recourse for subsistence to the berries of some shrubs, as those of the spurge-laurel and ivy; in autumn they also eat the small seeds of the berry-bearing alder, and of the hunters' service-tree\*. During that season they often go to drink, and about the end of August they are caught near the springs: they are then exceedingly fat, and of a delicate taste.

The black-cap may be also raised in the cage; and of all the birds of the volery it is, says Olina, the most lovely †. The attachment which it shows to its master is charming; it welcomes him with a peculiar accent, and a more tender air. On his approach it darts towards him against the wires of the cage, and struggles to burst its prison to meet him; and by the con-

\* Schwenckfeld.

† "Beyond the other birds of the cage, it is of a cheerful disposition, with a sweet and delightful song, with a lovely and pleasing aspect."—*Olina, Uccellgia*, p. 9.

tinual flapping of its wings, with its feeble cries, it seems to express its transports of joy\*.

The young ones bred in a cage, if they be within hearing of the nightingale, will improve their song, and rival their master†. In the season of their departure, which is the end of September, all these prisoners are restless and uneasy in their confinement, particularly during the night and while the moon shines. They seem conscious of the migration which they should now perform; and so ardent is their desire of changing their climate, that at this time many die from vexation and disappointment.

This bird is common in Italy, France, Germany, and even in Sweden; yet it is said to be unfrequent in England‡.

Aldrovandus speaks of a variety of this species which he calls the *variegated beccafico*, or fig-pecker (*ficedula*); but he does not inform us whether it is only an individual or a perma-

\* Olin, p. 9.—Of this bird Mademoiselle Descartes said, “No offence to my uncle, it has sentiment.”

† “The black-cap which I raised has formed its song after the nightingale, and has extended its voice to such degree, as to silence its masters, my nightingales.”—*Note communicated by M. le Tresorier le Moine.*

“The young ones caught with the net will perfect their sylvan song, and adopt other sorts of airs from tame linnets or other birds, and will teach their nestlings all that they have acquired.”—*Olin.*

‡ Willughby.      02

nent difference. Brisson, who mentions it under the appellation of *black and white fauvette*, gives no further notice; and it would seem that the *black-backed fau:ette* of Frisch is only the same variety.

The *little pigeonier* (*petite colombaude*) of the Provençals is another variety of the black-cap; only it is rather larger, and all the upper part of its body is of a deeper colour, almost blackish: its throat is white, and its sides grey: it is neat and sprightly; is fond of shades, and of the closest woods, and delights in the dew, which it eagerly collects.

In a hen black-cap opened the fourth of June, the *ovarium* contained eggs of various sizes; the intestinal tube from the *anus* to the gizzard was seven inches and a quarter long; there were two distinctly-formed *cæca*, two lines in length: the tongue was slender, and forked at the end; the upper mandible slightly scalloped; the outer toe joined to the middle one by its first *phalanx*; the hind nail the longest of all.

In a cock which was dissected on the 19th of June, the testicles were four lines long, and three broad: the *trachea arteria* had a knot swelled where it forks; the *æsophagus* about two inches long, and formed a sac before its insertion into the gizzard \*.

\* "The black-cap," says Mr. White, "has a full, sweet, deep, loud, and wild pipe; yet that strain is of short continuance, and his motions are desultory: but when that bird sits

calmly and engages in song in earnest, he pours forth very sweet but inward melody, and expresses great variety of soft and gentle modulations, superior perhaps to those of any of our warblers, the nightingale excepted. Black-caps mostly haunt our orchards and gardens: while they warble, their throats are wonderfully distended." In Norfolk they are called the *mock nightingale*. Their egg is reddish-brown, with dusker clouds, with straggling blackish spots.

THE GRISETTE, or the GREY FAU-  
VETTE, called, in Provence, PASSE-  
RINE\*.

*Fourth Species.*

ALDROVANDUS speaks of this bird under the name of *Stoparola*, which was given by the fowlers of Bologna, probably, says this naturalist, because it frequents the bushes and thickets where it builds its nest †.

\* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA CINEREA. S. supra rufo-cinerea, subtus rufo-alba, gula alba, rectrice extima extus toto intus dimidiato alba.

—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 515. No. 23. Var. β.

CURRUCA CINEREA, sive CINERARIA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 376. t. 21. f. 1.

SPIPOLA ALDR.—*Rav. Syn.* p. 77. A. 1?—*Will.* p. 153.—*Id. (Angl.)* p. 210.

———— PECTORE et VENTRE CANDIDO.—*Will.* p. 171. 5. —*Id. (Angl.)* p. 237. 5.

LA FAUVETTE GRISE, ou LA GRISETTE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 579. f. 3.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 106.

WHITE-THROAT.—*Br. Zool.* i. No. 160.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 422. S.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 428. 19.—*Bew. Birds,* i. p. 227.

HABITAT

In Europa, Anglia; migratoria; hortos frequentans. W.

† From the Italian *Stoppia*, stubble or brushwood.

We have seen one of these nests in a black-thorn three feet from the ground; it was of a cup shape, and consisted of meadow-moss interwoven with a few stalks of dry herbs.— Sometimes it is formed entirely with these stalks, which are finer in the inside, and coarser on the outside. The nest contained five eggs of a greenish-grey, sprinkled with rusty and brown spots, which are more frequent at the obtuse end.

The mother was caught with her young: the iris was of a chesnut colour; the edges of the upper mandible lightly scalloped at the point; the two eyelids furnished with white lashes: the tongue was frittered at the end; the intestinal tube from the gizzard to the *anus* was six inches long: there were two *cæca* two lines in length, their distance two inches, and the first before its insertion made a dilatation: the *ovarium* contained different-sized eggs.

In a male which was opened in the middle of May, the bowels presented very nearly the same appearances: there were two testicles, of which the right one was larger than the left, its great diameter four lines, and its small diameter two lines and three quarters: the gizzard was muscular, and the two membranes were detached; it contained some fragments of insects, but no pebbles: the iris was light crimson; in another it appeared orange; which shows that this part is liable to vary in its colours, and cannot furnish a specific character.

Aldrovandus remarks, that the eye of the Passerine is small, but brisk and lively. The back and crown of the head are ash-grey: the temples, the plumage above and behind the eye, are marked with a more blackish spot: the throat is white as far as the eye; the breast and stomach are whitish, and shaded with a light rusty or vinous tint. The bird is larger than the epicurean warbler: its total length is five inches seven lines; its alar extent eight inches. In Provence it enjoys another climate, and its habits are rather different. It likes to repose under the fig-tree and the olive, feeds on their fruits, and its flesh becomes extremely delicate. Its feeble notes seem to repeat the two last syllables of its name, *Passerine* \*.

M. Guys sent us from Provence a small kind of Fauvette, under the name of *bouscarle*, engraved *Pl. Enl.* No. 655, fig. 2. It seems to be most related to the Grey Fauvette, or Passerine Warbler; but its colour is rather fulvous and brown than grey.

\* The Grey Fauvette but seldom frequents the gardens; it prefers the coppice, and never sings except it be concealed in the bushes. It prefers smooth caterpillars, and larvæ, to perfect insects.



## THE BABBLER FAUVETTE\*.

*Fifth Species.*

WE hear this warbler the oftenest, and almost continually in spring. It frequently mounts a small height directly over the hedges, and whirls in the air and drops back again, chanting a short passage of a lively joyous air, which is always the same, and which it incessantly repeats: hence it has received the epithet of *babbler*. Besides this burthen, which it sings most

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA CURRUCA. S. supra fusca, subtus albida, rectricibus fuscis, extima margine tenuiore alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 509. No. 9.

MOTACILLA CURRUCA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 954.

CURRUCA GARRULA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 384. 7.—*Will.* p. 99 t. iv. t. 23.

LA FAUVETTE BABILLARDE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 580. f. 3.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 113. pl. 140. f. 3.

BABBLING WARBLER †.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 422. U.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 417. G.

## HABITAT

in Europa.—5 pollices longa.

W.

† In Greek, *Υπολαίς*, *Επιλαίς*; in modern Greek, *Πολαμίδα*: in Italian, *Pizamosche*, *Becafico Canapino*: in German, *Grassmuck*, *Fable Gras-muck*: in Polish, *Piegza*: in Swedish, *Kruka*.

frequently while on the wing, it has another sound or hollow whistle, *bjie, bjie*, which it makes in the heart of the bushes, and which we could hardly imagine to be uttered by so little a bird. Its motions are as sprightly and frequent as its babble is constant; and it is the most frisky and alert of all the Fauvettes. It is perpetually bustling, fluttering, hopping in and out among the bushes, without allowing a moment's rest. It nestles in the hedges, along the high roads, in the spots which afford it shelter, and commonly near the ground, and on the tufts of grass which spring up among the roots of the bushes\*: its eggs are greenish dotted with brown†.

According to Belon, the modern Greeks call this Fauvette *potamida*, i. e. bird of rivers or rivulets. Such is the name it has in Crete; and perhaps in a warm climate‡ it affects the neighbourhood of waters more than in our temperate countries, where it can easily procure cooling moisture. The insects bred by heat and mois-

\* Schwenckfeld.

† They are generally five in number. The nest is made of coarse dried herbs with wool scattered about the sides, and lined with fine grass, and a little hair. W.

‡ Belon, p. 340.—“There is another bird called by the ancients *curruca*, which the French know under the name of *brown fauvette*, and which the Greeks who at present inhabit this island (Crete) call *potamida*. They hold that the cuckoo is hostile to it, and eats the young when it has an opportunity.”—Dapper, *Descrip. des Iles de l'Archipel*.

ture constitute its chief food. The name which Aristotle gives it\* implies that it constantly searches for worms; yet it is seldom seen on the ground, and the reptiles which it feeds on are the caterpillars it finds on the shrubs and bushes.

Belon at first calls it the *brown Fauvette*, and afterwards he bestows the epithet of *leaden*, which marks much better the real tint of its plumage. The crown of its head is cinereous; all its robe ash-brown; the fore-part of its body white stained with rusty; the wing-quills brown, their inner edge whitish: the outer edge of the great quills is cinereous, and that of the middle ones rusty-grey: the twelve quills of the tail are brown edged with grey, except the two outermost, which are white on the outside, as in the common Fauvette or pettychaps: the bill and feet are leaden-grey: it is five inches long, and its alar extent six inches: it is of the same size with the grisette or passerine warbler, and on the whole resembles it much. \*

To this species we must refer not only the *hempe-beccafico* of Olin, which he says is frequent among the hemp-fields of Lombardy, but also the *canevarola* of Aldrovandus, and the *titling* of Turner.—This bird is easily tamed: as it lives in our meadows, our thickets, and our gardens, it is already half domesticated. If

\* *Υπολαίς*, which Gesner translates *Curruca*. From *υπο* and *λαίς*, a stone; because it gropes under stones for worms.

it is to be bred for the cage, which is sometimes done for the sake of its cheerful song, we must, says Olina, wait till it be fledged, and then take it from the nest, and put a bathing-cup in the cage; for, without this precaution, it would die. And with proper care its life may be prolonged to eighteen years in confinement\*.

\* Vieillot remarks, that this bird shows but little attachment for her young, and refuses to feed them if they are removed from their nest to a cage.

W.

## THE RUSSET, or FAUVETTE of the Woods\*.

### *Sixth Species.*

IF Belon had not expressly distinguished the *Russet* or *Fauvette of the Woods* from his *mouchet*, which we shall find to be the *winter Fauvette* or hedge-sparrow, we should have considered these as constituting the same species. Nor are we convinced that they are different birds, since their resemblance is so great, and their discrimination so little : we yield only to the

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA SCHÆNOBANUS. S. testaceo-fusca, subtus pallide testacea, capite maculato, remigibus extus rufo marginatis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 510. No. 10.

MOTACILLA SCHÆNOBANUS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 953.

CURRUCA SYLVESTRIS, s. LUSCINIOLA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 393.

11.—*Raii Syn.* p. 80. 1.—*Will.* p. 171.—*Id. (Angl.)* p. 237.

MOTACILLA YVICA.—*Hasselq. It.* p. 286. 50.—*Id. Voy.* p. 206.

LA FAUVETTE DE BOIS ou LA ROUSSETTE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 120.

BOG-RUSH WARBLER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 419.

REED WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 418. 7.

### HABITAT

in Europæ sylvis.

W.

authority of Eclon, who has perhaps observed them better than we have done.

Like the rest of the Fauvettes, this bird is perpetually joyous, lively, and active, and often utters a feeble cry: it has also a song, which though monotonous is not disagreeable; and it improves the notes when it has opportunities of hearing more varied and more brilliant modulations\*. Its migrations seem not to extend beyond our southern provinces†; there it appears in winter‡, and sings in that season: in spring, it returns to our woods, preferring the copses, and builds its nest with green moss and wool: it lays four or five eggs, which are a sky-blue.

The young ones are easily raised and bred, and they amply repay the trouble of education by their familiarity, their pretty warble, and their cheerfulness. Nor are they destitute of courage. "Those which I trained," says De Querhoënt, "were the terror of many birds as large as themselves. In the month of April I set all my little prisoners at liberty;

\* "Those which I raised seemed to have a more melodious song than the wild ones, because they pretty often heard a fiddle. They sang frequently."—*Note de M. le Vicomte de Querhoënt.*

† It appears, however, that they quit France in the winter, since Hasselquist met with them in the Mediterranean on the 10th of October.

‡ "It does not leave the country, and sings in winter like the gold-crested wren."—*Note de M. le Vicomte de Querhoënt.*

but the Russets were the last to profit by it. As they often made short excursions, the wild birds of the same species pursued them: but they sheltered themselves on the ledge of my window, where they stoutly defended their post: they bristled their feathers; each party trilled a feeble strain, and pecked the board like cocks, and so entered into a keen combat."

This is the only Fauvette which we have not been able to delineate from nature.—The description which is given of its plumage confirms us in the opinion, that this species is at least much related to the hedge-sparrow, if not exactly the same. Its head, the upper surface of its neck, the breast, the back, and the rump, are variegated with brown and rufous, each feather being brown in the middle, and edged with rufous; the scapular feathers, the coverts of the upper part of the wings and of the tail, variegated with the same colours, and in the same manner; the throat, the lower part of the neck, the belly, and the sides, rusty; the quill-feathers of the wings brown, and edged with rufous; those of the tail entirely brown. It is of the size of the pecty-chaps. The plumage of the Fauvettes is in general dull and obscure; that of the Russet is one of the most variegated, and Belon describes with warmth the beauty of its colours\*.

\* Nat. des Oiseaux, p. 338.

He remarks, at the same time, that this bird is scarcely known except to the fowlers and the peasants who live near the woods\*, and that it is caught in the heats of the summer, when it drinks at the pools.

\* Nat. des Oiseaux, p. 338.



## THE REED FAUVETTE\*.

*Seventh Species.*

THE Reed Fauvette chants in the warm nights of spring like the Nightingale, which has occasioned some to call it the willow or osier nightingale. It makes its nest among reeds and bushes, amidst marshes, and in copses beside the margin of pools. We saw

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA SALICARIA. *S. cinerea*, subtus alba, superciliis albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 516. No. 26.

MOTACILLA SALICARIA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 955.

CURRUCA ARUNDINACEA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 378. 5.

AVIS CONSIMILIS STÓPAROLÆ et MAGNANIMÆ.—*Raii Syn.* p. 81. 6.—*Will.* p. 153.—*Id. (Angl.)* p. 217.

SALICARIA.—*Raii Syn.* p. 81. 11.—*Will.* p. 158.

LA FAUVETTE de ROSEAUX.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 581. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 126.

WILLOW LARK.—*Br. Zool.* ii. 241.

SEDGE WARBLER †.—*Br. Zool.* i. No. 155.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 419. M.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 430. 21.—*Id. Sup.* p. 180.

## HABITAT

in Europæ paludosis locis, in arundinetis Angliæ.—51  
pollices longa. W.

† In German, *Weiderich*, *Wydenguckerlin*: in Swiss, *Weiderle*, *Zilzepsle*: in Polish, *Bownioska*.

one in the low branches of a hornbeam, near the ground; it consisted of straw and stalks of dry herbs, with a little hair within. It is constructed with more art than that of the other Fauvettes, and usually contains five eggs of a dirty white, mottled with brown, which is deeper and more spread about the thick end\*.

The young ones, though tender and not fledged, desert the nest if it be touched, or even if a person go too near it: this feature, which is common to all the Fauvettes, and even to this species which breeds amidst water, seems to characterise the instinctive disposition of these birds.

During the whole of the summer we see it darting from among the reeds, to catch the dragon-flies, and other insects which buz on the surface of the water. It continually warbles†; and it drives away the other birds‡, that it may remain sole proprietor of its spot, which it does not quit till September, the season when it departs with its family.

It is of the size of the black-cap; being five inches and four lines in length, and its alar ex-

\* When this bird places its nest over the water, it suspends the same, by fastening it to two, three, or four reeds, with as many rings made of moss and hair, and loose enough for the nest to rise and fall according to the height of the water. But as these rings can slide only from one knot to another on the reeds, it follows, if the water rises above the upper knot, that the nest must be submerged. W.

† Hebert.

‡ Gesner.

tent eight inches eight lines : its bill is seven inches and a half long ; its feet, nine lines ; its tail, two inches : the wings, when closed, reach beyond the middle of the tail : all the upper part of its body is of a light rusty-grey, and inclining somewhat to olive near the rump : the feathers of the wings are browner than those of the tail : the inferior coverts of the wings are of a light yellow ; the throat and all the fore part of the body yellowish on a whitish ground, and stained on the sides and near the tail with brown shades.

It is not in the least degree probable that the *petronella* of Schwenckfeld, " a bird which nestles under rocks and on the bare ground, which is seen only in the craggy parts of the mountains, and which continually jerks its tail like the wagtail," is the same with our Reed Fauvette. We cannot conceive why Brisson ranged them together ; for even the plumage which Schwenckfeld describes, would show it to be rather a kind of redstart.

If the *sedge bird* of Albin is also the same, his figure must be a very bad one, and all its colours false : it is not painting but masking nature. The figure given by Aldrovandus, and borrowed from Gesner, under the name of *salicaria*, has a much thicker bill than belongs to the genus of Fauvettes ; and if the bird (*avis consimilis stoparolæ & magnanimæ*) is the reed warbler, as Brisson says, and which seems probable, it will be difficult to suppose that

the *salicaria* is the same. Such is the confusion of Aldrovandus's account of this genus, which he seems not to have known from his own observations; and the example of this respectable naturalist shows how dangerous it is to trust to defective or inaccurate relations.\*.

\* It is not uncommon in England; sings night and day in the breeding season, imitating the notes of a sparrow, of a swallow, and of a skylark.

## THE LITTLE RUFOUS FAUVETTE\*.

*Eighth Species.*

BELON tells us, that he was at great pains to discover the ancient name of the Little Rufous Fauvette, and yet in settling this point he falls into a mistake, conceiving it to be the *troglydyte*. He seems even sensible, in some measure, of his error; for he observes that the text of *Ætius* and *Paul Æginetus*, which describes the *troglydyte*, agrees better with the brown wren than with the Rufous Fauvette. And we shall afterwards find that this remark is well founded. Indeed the appellation of *troglydyte* can refer only to a bird which frequents caverns, and the holes of rocks or of walls, a character which belongs to none of

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA RUFA. S. griseo-fusca, subtus superciliisque rufescentibus.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 516. No. 27.

CURRUCA RUFA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 387. 8.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 955.

MUSCIPETA MINIMA.—*Frisch.* t. 24.

LA PETITE FAUVETTE ROUSSE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 581. 1.  
—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 134.

RUFOUS WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 431. 22.

## HABITAT

in Europæ hortis.—4½ pollices longa.

W.

the Fauvettes; though Belon, erroneously imagining the word *Fauvette* derived from the Latin *fovea*, i. pit or burrow, admits it to have this instinct\*.

The [Rufous Warbler has commonly five young; but they often become the prey of the rapacious birds, particularly the shrikes. The eggs are greenish-white, and marked with two kinds of spots; some obscure and hardly visible, scattered equally over the surface; others deeper and well defined, most frequent near the thick end. "It constantly makes its nest," says Belon, "in some garden-herb, or bush, such as hemlock and the like, or behind a garden wall in the towns or villages." The inside is lined with horse-hair; but the nest observed by Belon had a hole in the bottom, which he ascribes to design, though it was probably accidental†; for this is contrary to the general construction, which is calculated to collect and concentrate the heat.

The same naturalist hits better when he says that the plumage of this little warbler is uniform, and the same with that of the nightingale's tail. The comparison is happy; and will save us a minute description. We shall only

\* *Fauvette* is really derived from *fauve*, fox-colour.—*Menage*.

† It is lined on the inside with horse-hair, and so nicely that it is perforated like a noose; so that the excrements of the young escape, and they are always preserved clean."

—*Nat. des Ois.* p. 341.

observe, that there is a little rufous shading the great coverts of the wings, and more faintly spread through the webs of their quills, with a very dilute and light tinge of rusty on the grey of the back and head, and on the whitish colour of the sides. This bird is therefore improperly styled *the rufous*, since only a few parts of its plumage are dashed slightly with it.

Its total length is only four inches eight lines; its alar extent six inches ten lines: it is one of the smallest of the genus, being inferior even to the passerine warbler. But Belon seems to exaggerate when he says, "that it is hardly so big as the end of the finger."

## THE SPOTTED FAUVETTE\*.

### *Ninth Species.*

THE plumage of the Fauvette's is commonly uniform and unvaried. The present is distinguished by some black spots on the breast; but the rest of its plumage is similar to that of the rest of the genus. It is of the size of the second species, or the passerine warbler; its length five inches four lines, and its wings when closed cover half the tail: all its mantle from the crown of the head to the origin of the tail is variegated with rusty brown, yellowish,

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA NÆVIA. S fusco-rufescens flavicante varia, sub-  
tus alba, pectore flavicante maculis albis, rectricibus  
nigricantibus albo extus marginatis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii.  
p. 517. No. 29.

MOTACILLA NÆVIA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 957.

CURRUCA NÆVIA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 389. 9.

BOARINA, MUSCICAPA PRIMA ALDROV.—*Raii Syn.* p. 77.  
7.—*Will* p. 158.—*Id.* p. 171. 6.

LA FAUVETTE TACHETE'E.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 581. 3.—*Buff.*  
*par Sonn.* li. p. 139.

FIG-EATER.—*Alb.* iii. t. 26.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 433. 24.

#### HABITAT

in Italia, circa Bononiam.— $5\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa.

W.



and cinereous: the quills of the wings are blackish, edged exteriorly with white: those of the tail are the same: the breast is yellowish, marked with black spots: the throat, the fore part of the neck, the belly, and the sides, are white.

This warbler is more common in Italy, and probably in the southern provinces of France, than in the northern countries, where it is little known. According to Aldrovandus, it is frequent near Bologna; and the name which he gives to it shows that it usually follows the herds of cattle in the fields \*.

It builds in the meadows, and places its nest within a foot of the ground in some large plant, as fennel, chervil, &c. It never springs when one approaches the spot, and it suffers itself to be caught rather than abandon its young, preferring the life of its progeny to its own: so powerful that instinct which inspires the feeble, fugacious animals with courage and intrepidity! In all creatures that obey the wise laws of nature, the parental affection is the source of whatever may be deemed virtuous.

*Boaro*, in Italian, signifies a cow-herd.





THE HEDGE WARBLER.

# THE WINTER FAUVETTE, TRAINE-BUISSON, or MOUCHET\*.

## *Tenth Species.*

ALL the other Fauvettes depart in autumn; this, on the contrary, arrives in that season. It resides among us during the whole of the winter months; and hence it has been styled the

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**SYLVIA MODULARIS.** S. supra griseo-fusca, tectricibus alarum apice albis, pectore cærulescente-cinereo.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 511. No. 13.

**MODACILLA MODULARIS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 962.

**CURRUCA SERIARIA.**—*Bris. ii.* p. 394. 12.

—*ELIOT.*—*Rau Syn.* p. 79. A. 6.—*Hill.* p. 157.

**MACULATA ALDE.**—*Will.* p. 157.

**LE TRAIN-BUISSON, MOUCHET, or FAUVETTE D'HIVER.**—*Buf. Pl. Enl.* 615. f. B.—*Buf. par. Sonn.* ii. p. 142. pl. 142. f. 1.

**HEMISTACHYDROPS.**—*Br. Zool.* i. No. 350.—*Arct. Zool.* ii.

**ALDE.**—*Will.* (Angl.) p. 215.—*Lath. Syn.* iv.

† In Italian, *Passera Sabina*; in German, *Prunell*; in Swedish, *Jaern-Spart*.

*Winter Fauvette*, and in some provinces the *Winter Nightingale*. The English and Italian appellations of *hedge-sparrow*, and *wood-sparrow* (*passara salvatica*), allude to the resemblance which its plumage, variegated with black and rufous-brown, bears to that of the tree-sparrow; a resemblance which Belon found to be complete\*.—In fact, the colours of the Winter Fauvette are much deeper than those of the others: its general complexion is blackish, and all its quills and feathers are bordered with rufous-brown: its cheeks, its throat, the fore-part of its neck and breast, are of a blueish-cinereous; there is a rusty spot on the temple: the belly is white. Its size is that of the redbreast; its alar extent eight inches. The cock differs from the hen, in having more of the rufous cast on the head and neck, and the latter being more stained with cinereous.

These birds perform their migrations in bodies: they arrive in the end of October, and the beginning of November: they alight on the hedges, and go from bush to bush, always near the ground, and hence their name of *trail-bush* (*traine-buisson*). It is not timorous, and is easily ensnared†. It has neither the shyness nor the vivacity of the other Fauvettes, and its disposition seems to participate of the cold and torpor of the season.

\* Nat. des Oiseaux, p. 375.

† Willughby.

Its usual strain is quivering; it is a sort of soft shake *tittit-tititit*, which it often repeats. It has also a slender warble, which, though mournful and little varied, is pleasant to hear in a season when all the other songsters are silent; this is the most frequent and lengthened towards evening. In the depth of winter, the hedge-sparrow haunts the barns and threshing-floors, to pick up the fine meal from among the chaff. Hence probably the name *chaff-scraper* (*gratte-paille*), which is given to it in Brie. Hebert says, that he found whole grains of wheat in its *craw*; but its slender bill is not calculated for such food, and necessity alone can compel it to that resource. As soon as the cold abates, it again retires to the hedges, searching on the branches for the chrysalids, and dead vine-fretters.

It disappears in the spring: whether that it penetrates into the forests and returns to the mountains, as in Lorraine, where, I am informed, that it breeds; or whether it migrates into other climates, particularly towards the north, from whence it seems to come in the autumn, and where it is very frequent in summer. In England, according to Albin, it is found during the warm weather in every bush. It inhabits Sweden; and the epithet which Linnæus applies seems to show that it continues during the winter, and assumes the white plumage common in the northern climates in that season\*. It

also breeds in Germany; but its nest is very rarely found in France: it is placed near the ground, or even on the surface, and it consists of moss, lined with wool and hair: it usually contains four or five eggs of a pleasant uniform light blue, without any spots. When a cat, or any mischievous animal, happens to come near the nest, the mother will divert it from the spot by an instinct similar to that by which the partridge misleads the dog; she springs up, and flutters from spot to spot, till her enemy is removed to a safe distance. Albin says, that in England the young are hatched against the month of May, that they are easily raised, that they are not timorous, and even become very familiar; and lastly, that their warble is esteemed, though not so cheerful as that of the other Fauvettes\*.

Their leaving France in the spring, and their plenty in the northern regions during that season, are singular facts in the history of the migration of birds. After the grasshopper warbler,

\* A Winter Fauvette, kept during that season at the house of M. Daubenton the younger, and caught in a snare in autumn, was not wilder than if it had been taken from the nest. It was put into a volery filled with canaries, linnets, and goldfinches. A canary took such a liking to this Fauvette, that he would never leave it; and M. Daubenton was induced to remove them from the general volery, and put them by themselves in a breeding-cage. But this attachment seemed to be friendship only, and not love; they did not copulate, nor is it likely that their union would have been productive.

this is the second species with a slender bill, which retires from the heats of our summers, and yet supports the rigours of our winters, which all the rest of the genus shun : and this instinct alone is sufficient to distinguish it, or at least to set it at a small distance from the others.



## THE ALPINE FAUVETTE\*.

THIS bird is found on the Alps and the high mountains of Dauphiné and Auvergne: it is at least as large as the common bunting, and therefore in point of size it far exceeds the Fauvettes; but still it is connected to them by many marked characters. Its throat is white, spotted with two different tints of brown: its breast is ash-grey: all the rest of its body is variegated with grey, more or less inclined to whitish, and with rufous; the inferior coverts of its tail are marked with blackish and white: the upper part of its head and neck is ash-grey; its back is of the same colour, but variegated with brown; the superior coverts of its wings are blackish, spotted with white to the point; the quills of its wings are brown, edged exteriorly, the large ones with whitish, the middle ones with rusty colour; the superior coverts of its tail are brown edged with greenish-grey, and rusty near the point; all the quills of its tail are terminated above by a rusty spot on the inner side; the bill is eight lines in length, blackish above, yellow at the base, and not scalloped: its lower jaw is yellowish; the *tarsus* is an inch long.

\* MOTACILLA ALPINA.—*Linn. Gmel. i. p. 957. No. 6.*  
 LA FAUVETTE des ALPES.—*Buff. par Sonn. li. p. 150.*



THE ALPINE WARBLER.



nail is much thicker than the rest; the tail is two inches and a half long, somewhat forked, and exceeds the wings near an inch. The whole length of the bird is seven inches; the tongue is forked; the *oesophagus* is rather more than three inches, and it dilates into a sort of glandulous sac before its insertion into the gizzard, which is very thick, and an inch long, and eight lines broad: it is muscular, and lined loosely by a membrane: it generally contains fragments of insects, different small seeds, and minute gravel. The left lobe of the liver, which covers the gizzard, is smaller than usual in birds: there is no gall-bladder, but two *cæca* of a line and a half each: the intestinal tube is ten or twelve inches long.

Though these birds inhabit the Alpine tracts which lie between France and Italy, and even those in Auvergne and Dauphiné, no author has mentioned them. The Marquis de Piolenc sent several to M. Gueneau de Montbeillard, which were killed at his barony of Montbel, 18th January, 1778. They never remove far from the lofty mountains, unless they be compelled to retreat by the abundance of snow: accordingly they are hardly seen in the low country. They are generally on the ground, and run swiftly; scudding along like the quail and the partridge, and not hopping as the other Fauvettes do. They also sit upon stones, but seldom perch on trees: they wander in small bodies, and recal each other by a feeble cry

like that of the wagtail. When the cold is moderate, they live in the fields; but when it becomes more severe, they resort to the moist meadows where there is moss, and are then seen running on the ice. Their last resource is the tepid springs and brooks: they are often found in such situations when the person is hunting for snipes. They are not shy; yet are they difficult to kill, especially on the wing.

## THE PITCHOU \*

THIS name is, in Provence, applied to a very small bird, which appears to us more related to the fauvettes than to any other genus. Its total length is five inches, of which the tail takes up near the one-half. It probably received this appellation because it conceals itself among cabbage (*chou*): it searches for the young butterflies that are bred on the leaves, and in the evening it squats and hides itself from its enemy, the bat, which roves above its cold lodging. But several persons have assured me, that *pitchou* has no relation to *chou*, and signifies only *little* or *slender*; which agrees with Italian etymo-

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA DARTFORDIENSIS. S. saturate rufo-fusca, subtus ferruginea, abdomine medio albo, palpebris iridibusque coccineis, pedibus flavis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 517. No. 31.

MOTACILLA PROVINCIALIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 958.

LE PITCHOU de PROVENCE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 655. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 155.

DARTFORD WARBLER.—*Br. Zool.* i. No. 161. t. 56.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 435. 27.—*Id. Sup.* p. 181.

## HABITAT

in Europa; in Angliæ ericetis rarior.—5 pollices et ultra longa. W.

logy \*, and suits well this bird, which is almost as small as a wren. \*

The bill of the Pitchou is long in comparison to its body, being seven lines; it is blackish at the tip, whitish at the base; the upper mandible is scalloped near the end; the wing is very short, and covers only the origin of the tail; the *tarsus* is eight lines; the nails are very thin, and the hind one is the largest; all the upper part of the body, from the forehead to the end of the tail, is deep cinereous; the quills of the tail, and the great quills of the wings, are edged with light cinereous on the outside, and blackish within.—We are indebted to M. Guys of Marseilles for our knowledge of this bird †.

\* *Piccino, Piccinino.*

† We are indebted to Dr. Latham for our knowledge of this as an English bird. He found it at Dartford, and says that several were shot on a common near Wandsworth in the winter of 1773.

## FOREIGN BIRDS

WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE FAUVETTES.

## I.

THE SPOTTED FAUVETTE from the  
Cape of Good Hope\*.

THIS bird, described by Brisson, is one of the largest, since he makes it equal to the brambling, and seven inches three lines long. The crown of the head is rufous, variegated with blackish spots in the middle of the feathers: the top of the neck, the back, and the shoulders, are clouded, except that their edge is dirty-grey; near the

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**SYLVIA AFRICANA.** S. nigra, rufescente varia, subtus alborufescens, fascia utrinque sub gula nigra, rectricibus fuscia rufo marginatis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 518. No. 32.

**MOTACILLA AFRICANA.**—*Gmel Syst.* i. p. 958.

**CURRUCA NÆVIA CAPITIS BONÆ SPEI.**—*Bris.* iii. p. 390. 10. t. 22. f. 2.

**LA FAUVETTE TACHETE'E du CAP de B. E.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 158.

**AFRICAN WARBLER.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 436. 28.

## HABITAT

ad Caput B. Spei.—7½ pollices longa.

W.



rump, on the coverts of the wings, and the upper surface of the tail, they are edged with rufous: all the under and fore-part of the body is rusty-white, variegated with some blackish spots on the flanks; on each side of the throat there is a small black stripe: the quills of the wings are brown, with the outer border rufous; the four quills in the middle of the tail are similar, the rest are rufous, but all of them are sharp and pointed; the bill is horn-colour, and eight lines long; the feet are ten lines, and of a dun-grey.

## II.

### THE SMALL SPOTTED FAUVETTE, from the Cape of Good Hope \*.

This is a new species, and introduced by Sonnerat: it is smaller than the babbler fau-

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA MACROURA. *S. fusca, subtus albo-flavescens maculis nigricantibus, superciliis albis, cauda cuneiformi elongata.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 545. No. 140.

MOTACILLA MACROURA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 953.

LA PETITE FAUVETTE TACHETE'E du CAP de B. ESP.—

*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 752. f. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 160.

GREAT-TAILED WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 500. 135.

#### HABITAT

ad Caput Bonæ Spei.—6 pollices longa.

vette, and its tail is longer than its body: the whole of its robe is brown, and the breast is spotted with blackish on a yellowish-white ground.

### III.

## THE SPOTTED FAUVETTE; from Louisiana\*.

It is of the size of the titlark, and resembles it in the manner in which all the under part of the body is spotted with blackish on a yellowish-white ground; these spots reach from near the eyes to the sides of the tail: a streak of white rises at the angle of the bill, and terminates in the eye; all the upper surface, from the

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA NOVEBORACENSIS. *S. cinerea fusco varia, subtus flavescens nigro striata, superciliis albis.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 518. No. 33.

MOTACILLA NOVEBORACENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 958.

LA FAUVETTE TACHETÉE de la LOUISIANE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 752. f. 1.—*Buff. pqr Sonn.* li. p. 161.

NEW-YORK WARBLER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 308.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 436. 29.

#### HABITAT

in Louisiana, Noveboraco.—5½ pollices longa.

W.

crown of the head to the end of the tail, is mixed with cinereous and deep brown.

‘ We should not have hesitated to refer to this species, as a variety proceeding from age or sex, another fauvette which was also sent from Louisiana, of which the plumage is a lighter grey, and has only a few traces of the spots which are distinctly painted on the former: the upper part of the body is whitish; a vestige of a yellowish tinge appears on the sides, and the rump; besides, these two birds are of the same size; the quills and the great coverts of the wings in the last are fringed with whitish; but an essential difference takes place in their bills: in the first, it is as large as the reed fauvette, and in the second, it is hardly equal to that of the small fauvette. This diversity in the principal part appears to be specific, and we shall therefore constitute this another species, under the name of SHADED FAUVETTE FROM LOUISIANA\*.

\* *Motacilla Umbria*.—*Gmel. Syst. i. p. 959.*

The Umbrose Warbler.—*Lath.*

The Dusky Warbler.—*Penn.*

## IV.

THE YELLOW-BREASTED FAU-  
VETTE, from Louisiana.

This is one of the handsomest and most brilliant of the whole genus. A half-mask of black covers the face and temples even beyond the eyes, and supports a white border; all the upper surface is olive, all the under part yellow, with an orange tint on the sides. It is of the size of the passerine warbler. It was brought from Louisiana by Lebeau.

A fourth species is the *Greenish Fauvette*\* from the same country. It is of the size of the spotted fauvette, which we have just described: its bill is as long, and is stronger; its throat is white; the under part of the body white-grey; a white streak passes below the eye, and beyond it: the crown of the head is blackish; the upper

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA. S. fusco-virescens, pileo nigricante, cervice cinerco, superciliis albis, alis caudaque nigricantibus.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 509. No. 6. Var.  $\delta$ .

LA FAUVETTE VERDATRE de la LOUISIANE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 164.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 417.

## HABITAT

in Louisiana.

W.

side of the neck is deep ash-colour; the flanks and the back are greenish, on a light-brown ground; a purer greenish borders the quills of the tail, and the outside of those of the wings, whose ground is blackish. It seems, by reason of its blackish hood, to form the correlative to our black-cap, which it equals in size.

## V.

## THE RUFOUS-TAILED FAUVETTE, from Cayenne \*.

Its total length is five inches one-fourth: it has a white throat, encircled with rusty dotted with brown; the breast is light brown; the rest of the under part of the body is white, with a rusty tinge on the inferior coverts of the tail; all the upper side, from the crown of the

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**SYLVIA RUFICAUDA.** *S. rufo-fusca*, subtus alba, gula rufo circumdata fusco maculata, tectricibus alarum caudaque rufis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 519. No. 37.

**MOTACILLA RUFICAUDA.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 959.

**LA FAUVETTE de CAYENNE à QUEUE ROUSSE.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 165.

**RUFOUS-TAILED WARBLER.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 439. 33.

### HABITAT

in Cayana.— $5\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa.

head to the origin of the tail, is brown, with a rufous tinge on the back; the coverts of the wings are rufous, their quills edged exteriorly with rufous; and all the tail is of that colour.

## VI.

# THE FAUVETTE OF CAYENNE, with a Brown Throat and Yellow Belly \*.

The throat, the upper side of the head, and of the body, are of a greenish-brown; the quills and coverts of the wings have the same ground colour, but are edged with rusty, those of the tail with greenish; the breast and belly are yellow, shaded with fulvous. It is one of the smallest of the genus, and scarcely exceeds the willow-wren; its bill is broad, and flat at its base, and in that respect it appears to resemble

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**SYLVIA FUSCICOLLIS.** *S. fusco-virescens, pectore abdomineque fulvo flavis, alis fuscis rubescente marginatis.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 520. No. 38.

**MOTACILLA FUSCICOLLIS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 959.

**LA FAUVETTE à GORGE BRUNE et VENTRE JAUNE.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 166.

**YELLOW-BELLIED WARBLER.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 440. 34.

## HABITAT

in Cayana.

W, -

the flycatchers, which are in fact nearly related to the fauvettes, being distinguished only by slight differences of conformation, while they are connected by one leading character, viz. that their modes of living are the same.

## VII.

### THE BLUEISH FAUVETTE OF SAINT DOMINGO\*.

This pretty little fauvette is only four inches and a half long; and all the upper side of the head, and of the whole of the body, is blue cinereous: the quills of the tail are edged with the same colour, on a brown ground; there is a white spot on the wing, of which the quills are

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**SYLVIA CÆRULESCENS.** *S. cinereo-cærulescens, subtus alba, gula nigra, alis fuscis, tectricibus macula alba, remigibus extus cæruleo-cærulescentibus.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 520. No. 39.

**MOTACILLA CÆRULESCENS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 960.

**LA FAUVETTE BLEUATRE de St. DOMINGUE.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 168.

**BLUE-GREY WARBLER.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 440. 35.

#### HABITAT

insula Dominicensi.—4½ pollices longa.

W.

brown; the tail is black; the rest of the under side of the body is white\*.

We are sorry that we know nothing of the habits of these different birds. Nature stamps every animated being with instincts and powers suited to their climates, and as various as those: such subjects are always worthy of being observed, but almost always want proper observers. Few are so intelligent or so laborious as the person† to whom we owe the interesting account of another little fauvette in St. Domingo, called the *yellow-neck* in that island.

\* This bird occurs in St. Domingo in December, January, February, and March, but at no other time of the year. It appears to migrate into the northern countries of America; it spends May in New-York, but nestles further to the northward.

Vieillot says that it is generally found in the forests and large thickets, and is a solitary bird. W.

† M. le Chevalier Lefevre Deshayes.



## THE YELLOW-NECK\*.

SUCH is the name (*cou-jaune*) which the settlers in St. Domingo have bestowed on a small bird †, which to beauty of plumage joins an easy shape and a pleasant warble: it sits upon the trees which are in blossom, and strains its little throat: its voice is slender and weak, but varied and delicate; each passage of its music is composed of rich and full cadences ‡. The bird

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA PENSILIS. S. grisea, abdomine superciliisque albis, collo subtus flavo, alis albo nigroque fasciatis, rectricibus lateralibus quatuor albo maculatis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 520. No 41.

MOTACILLA PENSILIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 960.

LE COU-JAUNE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 686. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p 170. pl. 142. f. 1.

PENSILE WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 441. 37.

### HABITAT

in insula Dominicensi—4½ pollices longa.

W.

† They also call it *the goldfinch*: yet the Yellow-neck has the slender bill of the pettychaps, or red-breast, and the port, the temper, and habits, of the latter; nor has it any thing analogous to the goldfinch but the warble, which is also very different.

‡ “ The song of the *corn or cane bird* resembles in the thinness of its tones, and the quality of its modulation, the

is the more charming, as its song lasts not only spring, the season of love, but is prolonged through almost all the months of the year. We should almost suppose that its passion suffers no intermission; and, in that case, it might be incessantly fired to warble its amorous tale. As soon as the weather grows fine, especially after those sudden and excessive torrents of rain which are so frequent in the West Indies, the male tunes his voice, and chants whole hours together: the female also sings; but her notes are neither so well supported, nor so finely blended.

Nature, who paints most of the birds in the New World with the richest colours, denies them the charms of song, and, in the desert tracts, she bestows only some savage cries. The Yellow-neck is one of the small number whose warble is lively and cheerful, and whose plumage is at the same time distinguished for beauty: the tints are well blended, and are heightened by the fine yellow which spreads over the throat, the neck, and the breast: black-grey predominates on the head, and, growing more dilute as it descends to the neck, it changes into a deep grey on the back: there is a white

warble of the yellow-neck."—*Note of M. Lefevre Deshayes, an ingenious and sensible observer, to whom we owe the details in this article, and many other interesting facts in the natural history of the birds of St. Domingo.*

line which crowns the eye, and joins to a small yellow streak lying between the eye and the bill : the belly is white, and the sides are speckled with white and black-grey ; the coverts of the wings are spotted with black and white, disposed in horizontal stripes ; there are also large white spots on the quills, of which there are sixteen in each wing, and with a small white-grey border at the end of the great webs ; the tail consists of twelve quills, of which the four outer ones are marked with large white spots : a scaly fine skin, of a greenish-grey, covers the legs : the bird is four inches and nine lines in length ; its alar extent eight inches, and it weighs one gros and a half.

Under this rich clothing, the pensile warbler has the figure and proportions of the fauvettes ; and its habits are also the same. It prefers for its haunts the sides of rivulets, and the cool refreshing spots near springs, and wet gullies ; whether because a mild temperature is most congenial to its nature, or that it seeks retirement where nothing may disturb its music. It flutters from tree to tree, and from branch to branch, and warbles in its passage through the air. It preys on flies, caterpillars, and butterflies ; and yet, in the season, it cracks the seeds of the guava and water melon, &c. probably to find the maggots which are bred in these at a certain state of maturity. It appears neither to arrive in St. Domingo nor depart : its flight,

though rapid, is not so lofty, nor so continued, as to waft it over the ocean\*, and it may be regarded as a native of that island †.

But the beauty and sensibility of this bird are no less remarkable than the sagacity it displays in building and placing its nest. It does not fix it at the forking of the branches, as usual with most other birds; it suspends it to binders hanging from the netting, which they form from tree to tree, especially those which fall from branches leaning over the rivers and deep ravines: the nest consists of dry blades of grass, the ribs of leaves, and exceedingly small roots, interwoven with the greatest art; it is fastened, or rather it is worked into the pendent strings; it is really a small bed rolled into a ball, so thick and compacted as to exclude the rain, and which rocks in the wind without receiving any harm.

But the elements are not the only enemies against which this bird has to struggle: with wonderful sagacity it provides for its protection from other foes: the opening is not made on

\* M. Deshayes compares the flight of the Yellow-neck to that of the bird called at St. Domingo *de la Toussaint* (*All-Saints*), seemingly because it arrives about that time. "It is nearly of the size," says he, "of the Yellow-neck; but this is very delicate in comparison, and the muscles of its wings are much less vigorous than in the bird *de la Toussaint*."

† It does not appear to be general in St. Domingo. Vieillot says, that there are some districts where it does not occur.

the top or side of the nest, but at the bottom ; nor is the entrance direct : after the bird has made its way into the vestibule, it must pass another aperture before it descends into the abode of its family : this lodgment is round and soft, and lined with a sort of lichen which grows on the trees, or with the silk of a plant called by the Spaniards *mort à cabaye* \*.

By this laborious construction, the young brood are protected against the attacks of the rapacious birds, and of the rats and snakes. Yet dangers still await them : when they are about to fly, many are devoured by the owls and rats, and the species ever remains limited. Such is the fate of the weak and gentle creatures in those regions, where the noxious kinds spread and prevail by their numbers.

The female lays only three or four eggs ; she hatches more than once in the year, but how often is not known : the young ones are seen in the month of June, and some are said to appear as early as March, and others are found in the end of August, or in September ; they soon leave their mother, but never rove far from the place of their nativity.

\* “ It is a plant which grows in the savannas of St. Domingo, and delights in humid situations : its milk is a strong poison, which is no doubt the reason of its name ; *mort à cabaye*.”—*Note de M. le Chev. Dcshayes*.

## THE REDSTART\*.

THE song of this bird has neither the extent nor the variety of the nightingale's warble; but

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**SYLVIA PHŒNICURUS.** S. gula nigra, abdomine caudaque rufis, capite dorsoque canis, fronte alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 511. No. 15.

**MOTACILLA PHŒNICURUS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 987.

**RUTICILLA.**—*Raii Syn.* p. 78. A. 5.—*Will.* p. 159. t. 39.—*Bris.* iii. p. 403. 15.

**LE ROSSIGNOL DE MURAILLE** †.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 351. f. 1.  
2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 177. pl. 138. f. 3.

**REDSTART.**—*Br. Zool.* i. No. 146.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 416. B.  
—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 218.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 421. 11.—*Bew. Birds,* i. p. 216.

### HABITAT

in Europa; in Anglia frequens; in foraminibus murium nidificat.—5 pollices longa. W.

† In Greek, *φαινικυρος*, *Arist. Hist. Anim.* lib. ix. 49: in Latin, *Phœnicurus*, *Plin.* lib. x. 29: in Italian, *Codirozzo*, *Corressolo*, *Revezol*: in German likewise its names denote the reddish colour of its tail; *Rot-stertz*, *Rot-schwentzel*, *Weinrogel*, *Rot-schwantz*, *Schwantz-kehlein*, and the female *Rothschwentzlein*. It is also called *Hauss-roetele*, *Summer-roetele* (house or summer red-bird): in Silesian, *Wustling*: in Prussian, *Saulocker*: in Polish, *Czerwony Ogonek*. The English name Redstart is evidently borrowed from the German *Rotstartz*, which signifies red-tail.

it partakes of the same modulations, and wears an air of tenderness and melancholy. Such at least are the emotions which this awakens in us ; for, with regard to the bird itself, it must be the expression of joy and pleasure, as it is the expression of love, which is equally delicious to every animated being. This is the only analogy that subsists between the two birds ; their habits, their size, their plumage\*, are different, though in French the same generic name of *nightingale* has been usually applied to both.

This bird appears with the rest in the spring, and sits on towers and the ruins of deserted buildings, and there it pours forth its notes. It even procures solitude in the midst of cities, where it settles on the top of a high wall, in a belfry, on a chimney, &c. always seeking the most lofty and most inaccessible spots : it is also found in the heart of the thickest forests. It flies nimbly ; and when it perches it vents a feeble cry †, and quivers its tail incessantly, not upwards and downwards, but horizontally, from right to left. It prefers the mountainous tracts, and seldom visits the plains ‡. It is much smaller than the *nightingale*, and even something smaller than the *redbreast* ; its form is more slender, and longer ; a black horse-shoe covers its throat, the fore-part and sides of its neck ; the same black encircles its eyes, and

\* Belon,

† Id.

‡ Olin.

reaches under its bill; a white bar masks its face: the crown and back of its head, the upper part of its neck and back, are of a glossy, but deep grey: in some subjects, probably old ones, this grey is almost black: the wing-quills are blackish-cinereous; their outer webs are of a lighter cast, and fringed with whitish-grey: below the black horse-shoe, a fine rufous fire-colour decorates a great part of the breast; and, fading somewhat on the sides, it again resumes its lustre on all the plumage of the tail, except the two middle feathers, which are brown; the belly is white, and the feet black; the tongue is forked at the end, as in the nightingale\*.

The female differs so much from the male, that some authors have reckoned it a second species†: it has neither the white face nor the black throat of the latter; both these parts are grey mixed with rusty, and the rest of the plumage is of a lighter tinge.

These birds breed both in towns and in the country, in hollow trees or in the crags of rocks: they lay five or six blue eggs: the young are hatched in May‡. During the whole time of incubation, the male chants from some neighbouring eminence, or from the top of a detached building§; and his music is softest at day-break||.

It is said that these birds are timorous and

\* Belon. † Linnæus and Klein. ‡ Schwenckfeld

§ Olinæ, *Uccell.* p. 47. || Aldrovandus, t. ii. p. 750.



suspicious, and that they will abandon their nest, if they be seen employed in constructing it, and that they will desert the eggs if they be touched. All this is probable; but what Albin adds is absurd; that if the young be handled, the parents will leave them to their fate, or throw them out of their nest\*.

The Redstart, though it lives amidst our dwellings, continues still savage. It has neither the familiarity of the redbreast, the sprightliness of the fauvette, nor the animation of the nightingale; its habits are solitary, its character is sullen and sad†. If it be caught in the adult state, it will refuse all sustenance, and pine to death‡; or if it survive the loss of its liberty, an obstinate silence will mark its disconsolate condition. However, if it be taken from the nest and raised in the cage, it will sing; and instructions, or the imitation of other birds, will improve its warble§, which is heard indiscriminately at every hour, and even during the night||.

\* Albin, vol. i. p. 44.

† "Their young much resemble those of the redbreasts; they cannot be so easily raised. I have kept one a whole winter; it seemed of a timid disposition, yet was it continually hopping, and had a very keen eye; it could distinguish at one end of the room the smallest insect at the other, and darted to it in an instant, emitting a cry in seizing it."—*Note communicated by the Viscount de Querhoënt.*

‡ Albin, vol. i. p. 44.

§ Idem, ibidem.

|| Olin, *Uccelleria*, p. 47.

It is fed with crumbs of bread, and with the same paste as the nightingale; it is even more delicate\*. When at liberty, it lives on flies, spiders, the chrysalids of ants, small berries, and soft fruits. In Italy it pecks the figs; and Olina tells us that it is seen in that country as late as the month of November, though in France it disappears in October. It departs when the redbreast begins to visit our habitations; and this is the reason perhaps that Aristotle and Pliny assert that the redbreast of winter, and the Redstart of summer, are the same bird†. Even in their migrations, the Redstarts show their solitary disposition; they never assemble in flocks, but arrive and depart singly ‡§.

\* Eelon.

† Arist. Hist. Anim. lib. ix. 49.—Plin. lib. x. 29.—Belon, Nat. des Oiseau, p. 347. 348.

‡ “This year I took a walk into the park one day when there was probably a numerous flight, for I sprung them every minute from the hedge-rows, and almost always one by one. I got so near many of them as to distinguish them easily: it was about the 15th of September. These birds are very common at Nantua in the spring and summer, and probably leave the mountains in the beginning of autumn, but without settling in our plains, where it is very rare to see them at any other season.”—*Note communicated by M. Hebert.*

§ The Redstart is held in great veneration by the mountaineers, because it is the harbinger of spring. It builds its nest on the roof of their cheese-cots, and begins to sing at the break of day, from whence it is called the *shepherd's alarum*.

W.

There are varieties of the Redstart; some derived from climate, others occasioned by age. Aldrovandus mentions three; but the first is a female, and the second is an imperfect figure from Gesner, and only the bird disguised; the third only is a true variety; it has a long white streak on the fore-part of the head: this is what Brisson calls the *Cinereous Redstart*, and which Willughby and Ray describe from Aldrovandus. Frisch mentions another variety of the hen Redstart, in which the breast is marked with rufous spots; and this variety constitutes Klein's second species. The Grey Redstart of Edwards\*, sent from Gibraltar to Catesby, and which Brisson makes his second species, is probably only a variety of climate. It is of the same size with the common Redstart; the greatest difference is, that there are no rufous tints on its breast, and that the outer edges of the middle quills of its wing are white.

Another variety nearly the same is the bird sent to us by M. D'Orcy, in which the black colour of the throat spreads over the breast and sides; whereas in the common Redstart these parts are rufous. We do not know whence M. D'Orcy received it: it had a white spot on the wing, of which the quills are blackish; all the cinereous cast of the upper part of the body is deeper than in the Redstart.

\* *Motacilla Gibraltariensis*.—Gmel.

and the white of the forehead is much less apparent.

There is besides in America a species of Redstart described by Catesby, which we shall leave undecided, and not ranged expressly with that of Europe; not so much because of the difference of characters, as of the wide separation between the continents. In fact, Catesby ascribes to the Virginian Redstart the same habits which we survey in our own. It lives in the closest woods; it is seen only in summer: its head, neck, back, and wings, are black, except a small spot of vivid rufous on its wing; the rufous colour of the breast is divided into two by the continuation of the grey of the stomach; the point of its tail is black. Are these differences specific, and more marked than what might be expected from the influence of another hemisphere?

The *Bugey-collier* (*charbonnier du Bugey*), according to Hebert's account, is also the Redstart\*. We shall make the same assertion in

\* "I think that the name of Redstart (*queue rouge*) may also be given to a bird of the bulk of a pettychaps, which is very common in Bugey, and there called the *collier* (*charbonnier*): it appears both in the towns and among the rocks; it nestles in the holes. Every year it has a nest on the ridge of the house which I occupy, in a hole at a great height; while the hen covered, the cock perched very near her on some point of the ridge, or on some very lofty tree, and repeated incessantly a doleful warble, which had only two variations, succeeding constantly in the same order at equal intervals. These birds have a sort of convulsive

regard to the *russet-tail*\* of Provence, of which we have been informed by M. Guys. We likewise suppose that the *chimney-bird*† of the same province is the Redstart; at least, the analogy of habits and also resemblance of characters seem to evince the identity.

trembling of the tail. I have seen them sometimes at Paris in the Tuilleries, never in Brie, nor have I heard their warble in Bugey."—Note communicated by M. Hebert, Farmer-general at Dijon.

\* *Cul-rousset*, ou *Cul-rousset furnou*.

† *Fourmeirou*, ou *fourncirou de ckeminée*.

## THE REDTAIL \*

\* ARISTOTLE mentions three small birds, and marks by the composition of the names which he applies that the principal feature of their plumage is a flame tint. These are the Φοινικυρα, which Gaza translates by *ruticilla*; Ερυθρακος, translated *rubecula*; and Πυρραλας, which he renders *rubicilla* †. We are pretty confident that the first is the redstart, and the second

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA ERITHACUS. S. dorso remigibusque cinereis, abdomine rectricibusque rufis, extimis duabus cinereis.—

*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 513. No. 19.

MOTACILLE ERITHACUS †.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 988.

PHÆNICURUS TORQUATUS.—*Bris.* iii. p. 411. 18. (*mas.*)

————— *Bris.* iii. p. 409. 17. (*femina.*)

LE ROUGE-QUEUE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 196.

ROTHSCHWENTZEL.—*Raii Syn.* p. 78. A. 5. var. 2.—*Will.* p. 160.—*Id. (Angl.)* p. 218.

RED-TAIL.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 425. 14.

## HABITAT

in Europa, migratoria.

W.

† *Erithacus* might properly perhaps be written *Erythacus*. T.

† Φοινικυρα is derived probably from Φοινίξ the Tyrian purple, and υρα a tail; Πυρραλας, is evidently formed from πυρ fire; Ερυθρακος, from ερυθρο; red.

the redbreast; indeed the habits which Aristotle ascribes to these, that the former lives in the summer near our habitations, and disappears in autumn when the latter arrives, can belong to no other birds which have a rutilous plumage, but the redstart or redbreast. It will be more difficult to ascertain the *πυρρῦλας* or *rubicilla*. These names have been applied by all the nomenclators to the bulfinch: their opinion was noticed, but not discussed, at that article; and we shall now resume the subject, and state the reasons which dispose us to make a very different conclusion.

Aristotle enumerates at this place the small birds, with a slender bill, which live chiefly on vegetables; such are, says he, the *cygalis*, the *heccafico* (or epicurean warbler), the *melancoryphus*\* (or black-cap), the *pyrrhulas*, the *erythacus*, the *hypolaïs* (the babbling warbler): but I ask whether the bulfinch can be classed with

\* I know that Belon and many naturalists after him, have referred also to the bulfinch the name of *melancoryphus*; but I am convinced that this application is erroneous, Aristotle speaks in two places of the *melancoryphus*, and in both he alludes to two different birds, neither of them the bulfinch: in the first passage we shall prove that he means the *pyrrhulas*; in the second, it is said to lay *twenty* eggs, to nestle in hollow trees, and to feed on insects, which character is true only of the black-headed titmouse.—This little discussion seemed to me the more necessary, as Belon has of all the naturalists discovered the most sagacity in referring the ancient names, and as the nomenclature is exceedingly embarrassing.

these; or is not that bird the most decidedly granivorous? It will not touch insects in the season when most others feed upon them; and it seems to differ as much from the vermivorous birds by its instincts as by the shape of its bill: and it is not likely that Aristotle would overlook this circumstance.

To what other bird, then, can we ascribe these properties? I perceive none but the *Redtail*, which inhabits the woods with the red-breast, and also feeds on insects during the whole summer, and departs at the same time in winter. Wotton conceived that the pyrrhulas was a kind of Redtail\*, and Johnston makes the same remark †; but the former was mistaken in supposing this bird to be the redstart, since Aristotle nicely distinguishes them.

The Redtail is actually very different from the redstart, and Aristotle and Gesner did well to separate them. It is larger than the redstart: it never visits our dwellings, nor nestles in the walls; but lives in the woods and lusher like the fauvelles and beccafigos: its tail is of a light vivid fire-colour; the rest of the plumage consists of grey, especially on all the upper surface, and deeper and fringed with rusty on the quills of the wings, and with white-grey, mixed confusedly with rusty, on all the fore part of the body: the rump is rufous, and so is the tail. Some have a fine black collar, and

\* Apud Gesnerum, p. 701.

† Pyrrhulas.—*Johnst.*



the colours over the whole of their plumage more lively and varied. Brisson has formed these into a second species \*; but we conceive that they are only the males, and some very experienced bird-fanciers have confirmed our opinion. Brisson says, that the collared Redtail is *found in Germany*, as if it were peculiar to that country: but wherever the Grey Redtails occur, the Collared Redtails are equally frequent. Besides, he is mistaken in his reference; for the figure in Frisch, which he supposes to be the Redtail, is only the female of the blue-throated warbler.

We regard the Collared Redtail, therefore, as the male, and the Grey Redtail as the female: in both, the tail is equally red; but, besides the collar, the male has a deeper plumage, being a brown-grey on the back, and grey spotted with brown on the breast and sides.

These birds prefer the hilly countries, and scarcely appear in the low grounds, except in their autumnal passage†. They arrive in the month of May in Burgundy and Lorraine, and soon bury themselves in the woods, where they remain all the summer. They breed in

\* *Phœnicurus Torquatus*.

† "I have seen in Brie, in autumn, a bird which likewise had a very rufous tail, but different from the redstart: I thought it was the same with the *collier* of Nantua in its first year. Almost all these birds change their colour the first moulting, and all the birds which feed on insects are subject to migrations in autumn."—*Note communicated by M. Hebert.*

the small bushes near the ground; their nest consists of moss, and lined with wool and feathers; it is of a spherical shape, with its opening facing the east, and the most sheltered from the stormy winds; it contains five or six eggs, variegated with grey.

The Redtails leave the woods in the morning, and return to avoid the heat of the day; they emerge in the evening, and appear in the neighbouring fields, but again return to their abodes to pass the night. These habits, and many other features of resemblance, seem to imply that they belong to the genus of the redstart. The Redtails, however, have neither its song nor its warble; they utter only a feeble mellow note *suite*, and it dwells on the first syllable, and spins it out with great softness. They are in general silent, and exceedingly composed\*: if a small detached branch projects from a bush or stretches across a path, they will alight on it, making a slight vibration with their tail like the redstart.

It answers the decoy, but does not rush on with the vivacity and eagerness of other birds;

\* A Redtail taken in autumn and let loose in an apartment, made not the smallest cry, whether flying, walking, or resting. Shut in the same cage with a pettychaps, the latter darted every minute against the bars, while the former remained still whole hours in the same place, where the pettychaps dropped upon it at each spring; and it suffered itself to be thus trod upon all the time the pettychaps lived, that is, about thirty-six hours.

it seems only to follow the crowd. It is also caught near springs about the end of autumn; and it is then very fat, and has a delicate flavour. Its flight is short, and reaches only from bush to bush.—These birds depart in the month of October; they may for several days be seen following each other along the hedges; but after that time none of them remain in France.

## THE GUIANA REDTAIL

THE quills of the wings are of the same rufous colour as those of the tail; the back is grey, and the belly is white. We are unacquainted with its habits and economy; but it is probably related to the European kind, and its instincts nearly the same.—We received it from Cayenne.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA GUIANENSIS. *S. grisea*, subtus alba, alis caudaque rufis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 514. No. 20.

MOTACILLA GUIANENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 988.

LE ROUGE-QUEUE de la GUIANE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 686. f. 2.  
—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 206.

GUIANA REDTAIL.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 426. 15.

### HABITAT

in Guiana.— $6\frac{1}{2}$  pollices longa.

## THE EPICUREAN WARBLER\*†.

THIS bird, which, like the ortolan, is esteemed by the luxurious as the highest delicacy, is not remarkable for its beauty. All its plumage is of a dull colour; the only shades are grey, brown, and whitish, to which the blackish cast of the wing quills is added, without heightening the complexion: a white spot, which transversely intersects the wing, is the most conspicuous touch of its colours, and that which many naturalists have assumed for the

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA FICEDULA. S. subfusca, subtus alba, pectore cinereo maculato.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 517. No. 28.

MOTACILLA FICEDULA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 956.

FICEDULA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 369. 1.—*Raii Syn.* p. 81. 12.—*Will.* p. 163.—*Id. (Ang.)* p. 227.

LE BECFIGUE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 668. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 207. pl. 140. fig. 2.

EPICUREAN WARBLER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 419. K.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 432. 26.

## HABITAT

in Europa.—5 pollices longa.

W.

† In Greek *Συκαλὶς*, from *συκον* a fig: the Latin name, *Ficedula*, is formed from *ficus* a fig, and *edo* to eat; in German, *Graszmach* or *Wüstling*.

character\*: the back is brown-grey, which begins on the crown of the head, and spreads to the rump; the throat is whitish; the breast lightly tinged with brown: the belly is white, and so are the outer webs of the first two quills of the tail; the bill is six lines in length, and slender. The alar extent is seven inches, and the total length of the bird is five: in the female, the colours are all duller and paler than in the male †.

These birds are natives of the south, and seem to visit our climate only to wait the maturity of the figs; they arrive late in the spring, and disappear before the earliest frosts of autumn. However, they spread in the summer over a great extent in the northern countries; for they are found in England ‡, in Germany §, in Poland ||, and even in Sweden ¶. They return in autumn to Italy and Greece, and probably advance to winter in still warmer regions. They seem to change their habits with their climate; for, in the countries of the south, they appear in flocks; while, in the temperate climates, they remain always dispersed: they inhabit the woods, feed on insects, and live in solitude, or rather in the endearing society of their female. Their nests are so artfully concealed, that it is very dif-

\* Frisch.—Brisson.—Aldrovandus.

† Aldrov.

‡ Willughby.

§ Klein.

|| Rzaczynski.

¶ Linnæus.

ficult to discover them\*: during that season, the male sits on the summit of some tall tree, and makes a feeble chirping, which is unpleasant, and much like that of the wheat-ear. The Epicurean Warblers arrive in Lorraine in April, and disappear in August, and sometimes later†. In that province, they are called *mulberry-birds*, or *little wood-finches*‡, which has tended to mislead; for, at the same time, the name of *fig-pecker*§ has been bestowed on the titlark, which is of a very different species. Nor are these the only mistakes that have been made in regard to the name. Belon presumes, because the bulfinch in Italy seems fond of figs, that it is the same bird with what is called in that country *beccafico*, and he infers that it is the real *ficedula*, to which Martial alludes. But the bulfinch is as different from the Epicurean Warbler in the taste of its flesh, which is bitter, as in the shape of its bill, in its colours, and in

\* “The beccafico nestles in our forests, and, to judge from analogy, in the holes of trees at a great height above the ground, like the collared flycatchers: for this reason, they are very difficult to be found. In 1767 or 1768, having seen or heard one of these birds sing, which was perched upon the summit of a very tall tree, I watched it attentively, and returned several times without being able to discover the nest, though I always saw the bird again. It had a feeble chirrup like the wheat-ear, by no means agreeable. It perched extremely high, and seldom came near the ground.”—*Note communicated by M. Lottinger.*

† Lottinger.

‡ *Mûriers*, or *petits pinçons des bois*.

§ *Bec-figue*.

the rest of its figure. In our southern provinces, and in Italy, all the different species of *fauvettes* are confounded under the name of fig-pecker, and almost all these birds have a slender long bill \*; but the true fig-pecker, or Epicurean Warbler, is also well known and distinguished for the delicacy of its flavour.

Martial, who asks why this small bird, which feeds alike on grapes and on figs, did not assume the name of the former rather than that of the latter †, would have adopted the appellation which it receives in Burgundy, where we call it *vinette*; because it frequents vineyards, and lives on the grapes. Along with these, however, it eats insects also, and the seeds of the herb mercury. Its feeble chirp may be expressed by *bzi, bzi*; it flies by jerks; it walks, but never hops, and it runs along the ground in the vineyards, and mounts upon vines and hedge enclosures.

Though the Epicurean Warblers never journey till about the month of August, and never appear in flocks but then, in most of our provinces, yet they are seen in the middle of summer at Brie, where some of them probably build their nests ‡. In their passage, they fly

\* Salerne.

† “Cum me ficus alat, cum pascor dulcibus uvis,  
Cur potius nomen non dedit uva mihi?” — MART.

‡ Hebert.



in small bodies of five or six. They are caught by the noose, the springe, or the mirror, in Burgundy, and along the Rhone, where they make their appearance about the end of August, and in September.

It is in Provence where they are properly named fig-peckers, for they are constantly seen on the fig-trees pecking the ripest fruit. They never leave these, except for the shade and cover of the bushes and of the leafy horn-beam. They are caught in great numbers during the month of September in Provence, and in many islands of the Mediterranean, especially in Malta, where they appear at times in prodigious flocks; and it has been remarked that they are much more numerous during their passage in autumn, than at their return in spring\*. The same is the case at Cyprus, where formerly they were articles of traffic: they were sent to Venice in pots filled with vinegar and odoriferous herbs†. When Cyprus belonged to the Venetians, a thousand or twelve hundred of these pots were furnished every year‡; and the fig-

\* Chevalier de Mazy.

† *Voyage de Pietro della Valle*, t. viii. p. 153.—He adds, that in some places, as at *Agia Nappa*, those who eat beccafigos are sometimes attacked by disorders, owing to the scammony which these birds find in the neighbourhood: they feed also, in the islands of the Archipelago, on the fruits of the lentisc.

‡ Dapper's Description of the Archipelago Islands.

pecker, or Epicurean Warbler, was generally known through Italy by the name of *Cyprus bird* (*Cyprius, uccello di Cypro*), which appellation, according to Willughby, was usual even in England.

This delicious bird has long been famous : Apicius mentions it more than once, with the little thrush, as both equally exquisite. Eustathius and Athenæus speak of the fowling for Epicurean Warblers\*, and Hesychius preserves the name of a net with which they were caught in Greece. Nothing indeed is more delicate or juicy than the meat of these birds at the proper season ; it is a pellet of light, savoury, melting fat, of easy digestion ; it is the extract of all the juices of the excellent fruits on which they feed.

We are acquainted with only one species, though the name has been bestowed on several †. If, indeed, we call every bird *fig-pecker* which pecks the figs in that season, the *fauvettes* and all the birds with slender bills, and even some with thick bills, would be entitled to that ap-

\* In Gesner.

† Aldrovandus gives (t. ii. p. 759.) two figures of the *fig-pecker*, of which the second, according to himself, exhibits only a variety of the first, perhaps even accidental, and which, he says, may be called the *variegated fig-pecker*, *black and white being mixed through its whole plumage, as the figure shows* : but this figure shows only in that the white on the wing is a little broader, and there is some white on the fore-side of the neck and on the breast ; which constitutes only an individual variety.

pellation. Hence the Italian proverb, *Nel' mese d'Agosto ogni uccello e beccafico* (In the month of August every bird is a fig-pecker). But this vulgar saying, which very well expresses the delicacy of flavour that the figs give to the little birds which feed on them, would be a very vague and improper foundation for arrangement; and were it adopted, it would introduce the greatest confusion. Yet some naturalists have fallen into this error. *The hemp fig-pecker* of Olinia (*beccafico canapino*) is only the babbling warbler. The great warbler, or the pettychaps, is, according to Ray, called *beccafico* in Italy. Belon applies the same name to the rufous warbler; and we have just seen that he is still more mistaken in supposing that term belonged also to the *bulfinch*, to which he is, by consequence, led to assign the ancient appellations of the fig-pecker *sycalis* and *ficedula*. In Provence, several different birds are confounded under the name of fig-pecker. M. Guys has, among others, sent two, which we shall subjoin to this article, only to show more distinctly that they are different birds\*.

\* This bird is said to sing but rarely; it goes to the northward in winter, and is found in the cold countries of North America. Vast numbers of them inhabit the islands in the Archipelago. W.

## THE FIST OF PROVENCE\*.

THE *fist*, so called by reason of its cry, was sent from Provence as a species of fig-pecker, or epicurean warbler. It is entirely different, and resembles much more the skylark, both in regard to size and plumage: the only material difference is, that his hind nail is not long. It chirps *fist, fist*; it does not spring when alarmed by noise, but runs to cover beneath a stone, till the danger is over, which implies that it commonly lives on the ground; a habit the reverse of that of the fig-pecker.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA MASSILIENSIS. S. fusco rufoque varia, subtus rufo alba, pectore nigro maculato, sub oculis macula flavescens, rectricibus duabus extimis albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 531. No. 85.

MOTACILLA MASSILIENSIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 965.

LE FIST de PROVENCE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 654. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 218.

PROVENCE WHEAT-EAR.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 471. 81.

### HABITAT

in Galloprovincia.—7 pollices longa.

W.

## THE ORTOLAN PIVOTÉ\*.

THIS is another bird of Provence, which, though it is called the fig-pecker, is as different from it as the *fist*. It is a faithful companion of the ortolans, and always in their train. It resembles much more the titlark, only it is larger, and its hind nail not long.

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**SYLVIA MACULATA.** S. nigro maculata supra fusca, subtus cinereo-alba, alis caudaque nigris, rectricibus duabus extimis margine exteriore apiceque toto albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 532. No. 86.

**MOTACILLA MACULATA.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 965.

**LA PIVOTE ORTOLANE.**—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 654. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 220.

**SPOTTED WHEAT-EAR.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 472. 82.

### HABITAT

in Galloprovincia; antecedenti æqualis et affinis.

W.





THE RED-BREAST.

## THE REDBREAST\*

THIS little bird passes the whole summer in our woods, and visits our habitations only at its departure in autumn, and its arrival in spring: but this last appearance is transient; it hastens to the forests to enjoy under the new-spread foliage, its solitude and its love. Its nest is placed near the ground, on the roots of young trees, or on herbs that are able to sup-

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA RUBECULA. S. grisea, gula pectoreque ferrugineis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 520. No. 42.

MOTACILLA RUBECULA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 993.—*Raii Syn.* p. 78. A. 3.—*Will.* p. 160. t. 39.—*Bris.* iii. p. 418. 21.

LE ROUGE-GORGE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 361. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 221. pl. 142. f. 2.

REDBREAST†.—*Br. Zool.* No. 147.—*Arct. Zool.* p. 417. D.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 219. t. 39.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 442. 38.—*Bew. Birds,* i. p. 212.

### HABITAT

in Anglia omnibus satis nota.

† In Greek, *Pydaxos*, or more properly *Pydaxos*; in modern Latin, *Rubecula*; in Italian, *Pettiroso*, *Pettuso*, *Pe-chietto*; in Portuguese, *Pitiroxo*; in Catalonian, *Pila Rolly*; in German, *Ruth-breustlein*, *Wald-roetelc*, *Rot-kropff*, *Rot-breustle*, *Winter Roetelc*, *Roth-kehleus*; in Saxony, *Rot-kechlyn*, *Rott-kaelichen*; in Polish, *Gil*; in Illyrian, *Czier-wenka*, *Zer Wenka*; in Swedish, *Rot-Gel.*



port it; it is constructed with moss, intermixed with hair and oak-leaves, and lined with feathers. Often after this is built, says Willughby, the bird strews it with leaves, preserving only a narrow winding entrance under the heap, and even shuts the mouth of it with a leaf when she goes abroad. The nest generally contains between five and seven eggs, of a brown colour. During the whole time of incubation, the cock makes the woods resound with his light tender song; it is a sweet delicate warble, enlivened with some brilliant modulations, and broken by graceful melting accents, which seem to be the expressions of amorous desire. The soft society of the female fills up his wishes, and makes him uneasy at the intrusion of other company. He keenly chases all the birds of his own species, and drives them from his little settlement; and never did the same bush lodge two pair of Redbreasts, as faithful as they are amorous\*.

The Redbreast prefers thick shade and watered spots: it feeds in the spring on worms and insects, which it hunts skilfully and nimbly. It flutters like a butterfly about a leaf where it sees a fly; and on the ground it advances by small springs, and darts on its prey, clapping its wings. In autumn, it also eats bramble-berries; and, on its departure, it feeds on the

\* Unum arbustum, non alit duos erithacos.

grapes of the vineyards, and on the sorbs in the woods; which is the reason that it is apt to be caught in the gins set for the thrushes, and which are baited with these small wild fruits. It resorts often to the springs, to bathe or drink, but most frequently in the autumn; for it is fatter at that season than at any other, and needs more to be cooled.

No bird is earlier awake than the Redbreast; it begins the music of the woods, welcomes the dawn of day. It also protracts its warble to the latest hour, and is seen fluttering about in the evening. It is often caught in gins after there is scarcely light sufficient for taking it up. It has little shyness; and its volatility, its restlessness, or its curiosity, hurry it into every sort of snare\*. It is always the first bird that is caught by the decoy; even the voice of the fowlers, and the noise made in cutting the branches, attract it; and it alights behind them, and is entangled by the springe or lured twig, the instant it is set. It answers equally the scream of the brown owl, or the sound of the

\* Of all birds that live in the state of liberty, the Redbreast is perhaps the least shy: they often approach so near, that a person might think that he could catch them with the hand; but the bird keeps constantly retiring as he advances. It seems fond too of accompanying travellers through the forests, and it is often observed to precede or follow them a pretty long time.—*Note communicated by the Sieur Treccourt.*

slit leaf of ivy\*. Their feeble cry *ulp, ulp*, whistled on the finger, or the chirping of some other bird, is sufficient to put all the Red-breasts round in motion. They fly to the spot, sounding from a distance *tirit, tiritit, tirititit*, with a sonorous ringing which is not their modulated air, but what they chirp in the morning and evening, and whenever they are excited by a new object. They brush eagerly through the whole of the call-ground, till they are stopped by some of the limed twigs; which are placed in the avenues, or fastened to poles that are made low on purpose to intercept their flight, which is seldom more than four or five feet from the surface: if one disentangles itself, it makes a third small cry *ti-ti, ti-ti*, which alarms the rest, and stops their further approach. They may also be caught in the open parts of the woods by means of poles to which are fastened nooses and limed twigs; but the springes are the most sure and successful; nor is it requisite that these be baited; we need only set them in the edge of glades, or in the middle of paths, and the unfortunate little bird, pushed on by curiosity, will throw itself into the snare.

Wherever large forests spread, the Redbreasts are found in abundance. In Burgundy and Lorraine, particularly, these birds, which are

\* The French bird-catchers call this *frodet*.

excellent food, are obtained in the greatest numbers: many are also caught in the neighbourhood of the small towns of Bourmont, Mirecourt, and Neufchâteau; and they are sent from Nancy to Paris. That province, which is well wooded and watered, maintains a vast variety of birds; its situation too, bounded by the Ardenne on the one side, and skirted by the forests of Suntgau, which join the Jura, on the other, is exactly in the direction of the migrations; and for this reason, the birds are most frequent in the time of their passage\*. The Redbreasts in particular are brought in immense quantities from the Ardennes, where Belon saw numbers caught in the season.—This species is diffused through the whole extent of Europe, from Spain and Italy to Poland and Sweden; and in every country these little birds prefer the mountains and the woods to breed and spend the summer.

The young ones, previous to the first moult, are not painted with that fine rufous orange on the throat and breast, from which by a little straining the Redbreasts derive their name. It tinges a few of the feathers by the end of August; and before the end of September the birds have all the same plumage, and can no longer be distinguished†. About this time

\* Belon, Nat. des Oiseaux, p. 348.

† “ It is improperly called Redbreast (*rouge-gorge*); for

they prepare for their departure; but they never gather in flocks: they journey singly, one after another; and, when all other birds associate together, the Redbreasts still retain their solitary habits. They fly during the day from bush to bush; but probably they rise higher in the night, and make more progress; at least it has happened to fowlers in a forest which was full of these birds in the evening, and promised excellent sport next morning, that they were all gone before the dawn\*.

The departure not being marked, or, to use the expression, not being proclaimed among the Redbreasts, as among the other birds at that season collected in flocks, many stay behind: and these are either the young and inexperienced, or some which can derive support from the slender resources of the winter. In that season they visit our habitations, and seek the warmest and most sheltered situa-

what we think to be red on the breast is orange, which rises from both sides below the bill, which is slender, taper, and black, and from below the two spaces of the eyes, and extends from the under part of the throat to the stomach."—*Id. ibid.*

\* "I remember one year to have spread my nets for the Redbreasts in April; and as they were very plenty, I continued the sport three days with equal success: on the fourth the sun rose brighter than ever, and the day was very mild; I expected a large capture, but they had beat their march during my absence; all were gone, and I did not take a single bird."

tions\*; and if any one still continues in the wood, it becomes the companion of the faggot-maker, cherishes itself at his fire, pecks at his bread, and flutters the whole day round him, chirping its slender pip. But when the cold grows more severe, and thick snow covers the ground, it approaches our houses, and taps on the window with its bill, as if to entreat† an asylum, which is cheerfully granted‡; and it repays the favour by the most amiable familiarity, gathering the crumbs from the table §, distinguishing affectionately the people of the house, and assuming a warble, not so rich,

\* “This bird being very delicate, and averse to excess of every kind, whether of heat or of cold, it retires in summer to the dense forests or the uplands, where it enjoys coolness and verdure; in winter it approaches dwellings, and is seen among the bushes and in the gardens, especially where the sun strikes, which aspects it carefully seeks.”—*Olina, Uccelleria*, p. 16.

† Willughby, *Ornithol.* p. 160.

‡ “In a Carthusian monastery at Bugey, I saw Redbreasts in the monks’ cells, which they had been constrained to enter after wandering some days in the cloisters. In three or four days they were naturalised to such degree, that they would come to eat on the table. They were well reconciled to the fare of the monastery; and passed thus the whole winter, protected from cold and hunger, without showing the least desire to escape. But on the approach of spring they felt new desires; they tapped on the window with their bill; and after they recovered their liberty, they returned not till next winter.”—*Note of M. Hebert.*

indeed, as that, of the spring, but more delicate, and retained through all the rigours of the season, to hail each day the kindness of its landlord, and the sweetness of its retreat\*. There it remains tranquil, till the returning spring awakens new desires, and invites to other pleasures: it now becomes uneasy, and impatient to recover its liberty.

During this transient state of domestication, the Redbreast eats almost every sort of food; it collects indifferently crumbs of bread, bits of flesh, or millet seeds. Olinæ asserts too generally, that, when taken from the nest, or caught in the woods, it should be fed with the same paste as the nightingale†: its appetite, we see, is not so delicate. Those which are allowed to fly freely about rooms, occasion but slight inconvenience; for their excrements are small and dry. The author of the *Ædonology*‡ pretends that the Redbreasts may be taught to speak; and this prejudice must be of an ancient date, since the same thing occurs in Porphyry§; but the fact is quite improbable, for the tongue of the bird is forked. Belon, who never heard it except in au-

\* I saw, at the house of one of my friends, a Redbreast, that had been afforded an asylum in the depth of winter, come to alight on his desk while he was writing. It sung whole hours with a feeble warble, sweet and melodious.

† P. 16.     ‡ P. 93.     § Lib. iii. De Abstin. Animal.

umn, at which time it has only the little chirp, and not its full impassioned song of love, yet boasts of the charms of its voice, and compares it to that of the nightingale. From his own account, he appears to have taken the Redbreast and the redstart for the same bird; but afterwards he distinguished them, both by their habits and by their colours\*. Those of the Redbreast are very simple: a coat of the same brown as the back of the thristle covers all the upper side of its body and its head; its stomach and belly are white; the orange-rufous of the breast is less vivid in the female than in the male; their eyes are black, large, and even expressive, and their aspect mild; the bill is slender and delicate, as in all birds that live chiefly on insects; the *tarsus*, which is very small, is of a light brown, and so is the upper side of the toes, though they are of a pale yellow below. When full grown, the bird is five inches nine lines in length, and its alar extent eight inches; the intestinal tube is about nine inches long; the gizzard, which is muscular, is preceded by a dilatation of the *æsophagus*; the *cæcum* is very small, and sometimes entirely wanting. In autumn, the Redbreasts are very fat; and their flesh is more delicate than that of the thristle,

\* “ The redstart appears in the spring in towns and villages, and nestles in holes, when the Redbreast has retired into the woods.”—*Belon, Nat. des Oiseaux*, p. 348.



but has something of its flavour, both feeding on the same fruits, particularly those of the service-tree\*.

\* Its egg is whitish, with reddish spots. The Robins seem to continue in England the whole year.

Virey says they are common in the island of Madeira; Steudhan noticed them at Surinam, and Vancouver saw them in New Holland. W.





THE BLUE - THROATED WARBLER.

## THE BLUE-THROAT

IN its shape, its size, and its general appearance, this bird is an exact copy of the red-breast: the only difference is, that its throat is of a brilliant azure blue, while that of the other is orange-red. Even in marking the discrimination between these birds, nature seems to point at their analogy; for beneath this blue space, we may perceive a black sash and an

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA SUECICA. *S. cinereo-fusca, pectore ferrugineo, fascia cærulea, rectricibus fuscis versus basin ferrugineis.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 521. No. 43.

MOTACILLA SUECICA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 989.

CYANECULA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 413. 19. (*mas.*)

———— GIBRALTARIENSIS.—*Bris.* iii. p. 416. 20. (*femina.*)

RUTICILLA WEGFLECKIN.—*Raii Syn.* p. 78. A. 5. 3.—*Will.* p. 160.—*Id. (Angl.)* p. 219.

LA GORGE-BLEUE.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 610. 1. (*mas.*)—f. 2. (*femina.*)—f. 3. (*junior.*)—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 235. pl. 143. f. 1.

BLUE-THROATED WARBLER†.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 417. E.—*Edw.* t. 28. (*femina.*)—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 444. 30.

## HABITAT

in Europa

W.

† In German, *Wegflecklin*, or *Blau-Kehlein*: in Swedish, *Carls-Vogel*.

orange-red zone which bounds the top of the breast: this orange-tint again appears on the first half of the lateral quills of the tail; from the corner of the bill, a streak of rusty-white passes over the eye; and in general the colours, though darker, are the same with those of the red-breast. They share also the same habits, only their haunts are different: the redbreast lives in the heart of the woods; but the Blue-throat frequents their skirts, and seeks marshes, wet meadows, and places that abound with willows and reeds: and with the same solitary instinct as the redbreast, it seems alike disposed to be familiar with man; for, after the summer months are spent in its sequestered retreats, it visits the gardens, avenues, and hedges, before its departure, and ventures so near that it may be shot with the trunk.

Like the redbreasts, they never keep in flocks, and seldom more than two are seen together. In the end of summer, says Lottinger, the Blue-throats alight in the fields that are sown with large sorts of grain. Frisch mentions fields of pease as their favourite haunt, and even pretends that they breed among these; but their nest is more commonly found in the willows, the osiers, and other bushes which grow in wet situations: it is formed of herbs interwoven at the origin of the branches or boughs.

In the love season, the male mounts perpendicularly to a little height in the air, chanting as he rises; he whirls round, and drops back on

his bough as cheerfully as the pettychaps, of which the Blue-throat seems to have some habits. He also sings in the night; and, according to Frisch, his warble is very sweet. Hermann, on the contrary, informs us, that it is not at all pleasant\*. This contradiction is owing, perhaps, to the different times at which these observers heard the bird; for as great difference would have been found between the ordinary chirp of our redbreast, and its mellow, tender song in the spring, or its pretty warble which cheers the bright days of autumn.

The Blue-throat is as fond of bathing as the redbreast, and oftener haunts the margins of water. It lives on worms and other insects; and in the season of its passage it eats elderberries. It may be seen among the fens, seeking its food on the ground, and running briskly, and cocking its tail, especially the male, when he hears the real or imitated voice of the female.

The young ones are of a blackish-brown, and have not assumed the blue-tint of the throat; the males have only some brown feathers amidst the white of the throat and breast. The female never has the whole of the blue space on the throat; she is only marked with a crescent or a bar below the neck: and on this difference,

\* Doctor and Professor of Physic and of Natural History at Strasburg, who has been so obliging as to communicate some facts relating to the natural history of these birds.

and on the figure of Edwards, who has given the female only, Brisson makes a second species of his *Gibraltar Blue-throat*, from which place the female seems to have come.

Among the adult males, some have the whole neck blue; and these are probably old ones, especially as the rest of the colours and the red zone of the breast appear deeper in these individuals. The others, which are more numerous, have a spot like a half collar, of a fine white, which Frisch compares to the lustre of polished silver\*; and, from this character, the bird-catchers at Brandenburg have applied to the Blue-throat the name of *mirror-bird*.

These rich colours tarnish and fade in confinement, and even after the first moulting. The Blue-throats are caught with the noose, like the nightingales, and with the same bait. In the season when these birds are fat, they are much sought after, as are all the small birds which have delicate flesh; but they are rare, and even unknown in most of our provinces. They are seen at the time of their passage in low parts of the Vosges near Saneburg, according to Lottinger. But another observer assures us, that they never penetrate into the heart of those mountains on the south. They are more frequent in Alsace; and though they are spread through Germany, and even as far as Prussia,

\* Linnaeus is probably mistaken when he describes this colour as a dull, yellowish-white.--*Fauna Suecica*.

they are not very common in any part, and the species seems to be much less numerous than that of the redbreasts. Yet it inhabits a wide extent: from the epithet which Barrere applies to it\*, we may infer that it is well known among the Pyrenees. We see, from the denomination of Brisson's *pretended* second species, that this bird is found even at Gibraltar. It is also seen in Provence, where the people call it *blue russetbottom*. And from the name which Linneus bestows, we might suppose that it is a native of Sweden†; but this proves only that the Blue-throat visits the northern regions. It leaves them in autumn, and travels ~~into~~ milder climates in quest of food; and this habit, or rather this necessity, is common to the Blue-throat, and all the birds which feed on insects, or on soft fruits‡.

\* *Motacilla Pyrenaica*.

† *Motacilla Suecica*.

‡ It is found in the northern parts of Russia and Siberia, but unknown in England.



## FOREIGN BIRD

WHICH IS RELATED TO THE REDBREAST AND  
BLUE-THROAT.

### THE BLUE REDBREAST of North America\*.

Our Redbreast is too weak, and its flight too short, for our supposing it to have crossed the Atlantic Ocean; and, as it cannot support extreme cold, it could not penetrate into America by the northern straits. But nature has produced its representative in those vast regions, which is found from Virginia and Carolina as

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA SIALIS. S. supra cærulea, subtus rufo-rubra, abdomine albo.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 522. No. 44.

MOTACILLA SIALIS.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 989.—*Kalm. It.* iii. p. 30.

RUBECULA CAROLINENSIS CÆRULEA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 423. 23.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 396. f. 1. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 243.

BLUE REDBREAST.—*Edw.* t. 24.—*Cates. Car.* i. t. 47.

BLUE WARBLER.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. No. 281.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 446. 40.

#### HABITAT

in Carolina, Virginia; migratoria.—5½ pollices longa. W.

as far as Louisiana and the Bermuda islands. Catesby has given the first description of it, and Edwards has finished it; and both agree that it is closely related to the Redbreast of Europe\*. It is rather larger than the redbreast, being six inches three lines in length, and its alar extent ten inches eight lines. Catesby remarks, that it flies swiftly, and that its wings are long; the head, the upper side of the body, of the tail, and of the wings, is of an exceedingly fine blue, except the tip of the wing, which is brown; the throat and breast are of a bright yellow rust-colour; the belly is white. In some subjects, as in the one delineated by Catesby, the blue-tint of the head covers the throat also; in others, as in that of Edwards, the whole fore-part of the body, as far as the bill, is covered with rufous. In the female, the colours are duller; the blue is mixed with blackish; the small quills of the wing, blackish, and fringed with white. The bird is of a mild disposition, and feeds only on insects: it nestles in the holes of trees—a difference in the mode of life suggested perhaps by the climate, where the numerous reptiles compel the birds to place the nests beyond their reach. Catesby

\* “Mr. Catesby has called this bird *Rebecula Americana*: which is a proper name enough, since both his bird and mine are certainly of that genus, of which the robin-redbreast is a species.”—Edwards.

tells us, that the Blue Warbler is very common through the whole of North America. That naturalist and Edwards are the only ones who have noticed this bird ; and Klein merely copies their descriptions.





FIG. 1 THE STONE CHAT. FIG. 2. THE WHEAT-EAR.

## THE STONE CHAT

THIS sprightly, active bird is never at rest. Fluttering from bush to bush, it alights only for a few seconds; and its wings are still spread, and ready to waft it to some other spot. It rises in the air by small springs, and falls back whirling round. This continual motion has

### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA RUBICOLA. S. grisea, subtus rufescens, jugulo fascia alba, loris nigris, uropygio maculaque alarum alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 523. No. 49.

MOTACILLA RUBICOLA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 909.

RUBETRA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 428. 25. t. 23. f. 1. (*mis.*)

CENANTHE NOSTRA TERTIA.—*Itali. Syn.* p. 76. A. 4.—*Will.* p. 169. t. 41.

LE TRAQUET.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 678. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* i. p. 260. pl. 143. f. 2.

STONE SMICH, STONE-CHATTER, MOOR-TITLING †.—*Bull. Zool.* i. No. 159.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 235. t. 41.—*Lath. Syn.* i. p. 448. 46.—*Bew. Birds*, i. p. 242.

### HABITAT

in Europæ sepibus — 4½ pollices longa

† In Greek, Βάλις; in Italian, Baralis, Occhio di Baralis (eye); in German, Stein-schmeizer. [Linnæus very absurdly gives the Stone Chat the name *Rubicola*; which, bating a slight variation in the orthography, is absolutely the same with *Rubecula*, which was appropriated to the robin. T.]

been compared to that of a mill-clack (*traquet d'un moulin*) ; and hence, according to Belon \*, the origin of its name.

Though the Stone Chat flies low, and never mounts to the summit of trees; it sits always on the tops of the bushes, or on the most projecting branches of the hedges and shrubs, or on the heads of Turkey wheat growing in the fields, and on the tallest props in the vineyard. It delights most in dry grounds, heaths, and upland meadows; and there it often utters its slender cry *tristrata*, in a low, smothered tone †. If it finds a detached stem or a stake in these meadows, it seldom fails to perch on it, which makes it easily be caught: a lime-twigg placed on a stick is sufficient for the purpose; and even the children are well acquainted with this sport.

From this habit of flying from bush to bush, and on thorns and brambles, Belon, who found this bird at Crète and in Greece, as well as in our provinces, applies to it the name *Balis*, or *bramble-bird*, which Aristotle mentions once only ‡, observing that it feeds on worms. Gaza translates *Balis* by *rubetra*, which all the naturalists have referred to the Stone Chat, especially as the epithet *rubetra* implies that the bird is reddish, and the bay-colour of the breast of

\* Nat. des Oiseaux, p. 360.

† Willughby's Ornithology, p. 170.

‡ Hist. Anim., lib. viii. 3.

the Stone Chat is conspicuous. It spreads, growing more dilute, under the belly : the ground colour of the back is a fine black, which is clouded with brown scales ; and the same disposition of tints extends to the crown of the head \*, where the black, however, predominates ; the throat is of a pure black, only dashed with a few white waves, and rises under the eyes. A white spot on the side of the neck is bounded by the black of the throat, and the bay-colour of the breast ; the quills of the wings and tail are blackish, fringed with brown or light rusty ; there is a broad white line on the wing near the body, and the rump is of the same cast. All these tints are bolder and more intense in the old males than in the young ones ; the tail is square, and somewhat spread ; the bill is slender, and seven lines in length ; the head is pretty round, and the body compact ; the legs are black, slender, and ten lines in length ; the alar extent is seven inches and a half, and the total length four inches ten lines. In the female, the breast is of a dirty rusty-colour, which, mixing with the brown of the head and the upper side of the body, obtains a blackish cast on the wings, and melts into the whitish under the belly and the throat ; which makes the plumage of the female appear dull, discoloured, and much less distinct than in the male.

\* Belon.



The Stone Chat builds its nest in waste lands, at the foot of bushes, under their roots, or beneath the cover of a stone, and enters it by stealth, as if afraid of being discovered: accordingly \* the nest is difficult to be found †. It breeds about the end of March, and lays ‡ five or six eggs, of a blueish-green, with light rufous spots, which appear obscure, but are most frequent at the big end. The parents feed their young with worms and insects, which they continually carry to them: and their anxiety seems redoubled when these begin

\* “The ~~blackfoot~~ (Stone Chat) makes its nest in concealed spots. I found one plastered against a rock, two feet from the ground, in which were five young, covered with a black down. This nest was concealed by a holm-oak, and the parents were not afraid that the cattle should approach it; but they screamed much on the neighbouring trees, when I went near.”—*Note communicated by the Marquis de Piolenc.*

† “They make their nest so nicely, and frequent it so secretly, that it is very difficult to be found. It has a great many young, which it feeds with living animals.”—Belon, *Nat. des Oiseaux*, p. 369.—“The nest of the Stone Chat is very difficult to discover; for the windings which the bird takes in entering or leaving it, render the search almost always fruitless. It never enters but through some neighbouring bushes; and when it issues forth, it flies likewise a short way among the bushes. A person might imagine, when he sees the bird dart briskly into a bush with a worm or other insect in its bill, that its nest was there; yet in vain would he look for it at that spot.”—*Note communicated by the Sieur Trecoart.*

‡ Nest found at Montbard, the 30th March.

to fly; they invite them back, rally them, and scream incessantly *wistratra*; and for several days they still bring them food.

The Stone Chat is very solitary, and is always seen alone, except when the season of love gives it a companion \*. Its disposition is wild, and its instinct dull and intractable: if it be sprightly in the state of freedom, it is as heavy † and inactive when reduced to domestication: it can be taught nothing, and it is even difficult to be raised ‡. In the fields it suffers one to come very near it, and flies to a short distance, without seeming to notice the fowler: it appears, therefore, to have neither sense enough to love us, nor shun us.

The Stone Chats are very fat in the proper season; and, for the delicacy of their flesh, they may be compared to the epicurean warblers. However, they live only on insects, and their

\* Belon and Androvandus.

† "The Stone Chat is pensive: having opened the cage to one of these birds, in a garden, amidst bushes, and in a hot sun, it quickly flew to the open door, where it looked round it more than a minute before it took flight: its diffidence was so great as to suspend its love of liberty."—*Note communicated by M. Hebert.*

‡ "The Stone Chats are wild, and difficult to raise. Those which I had, had a heavy look: sometimes they took sudden starts; but these were momentary, and they soon relapsed into their habitual lethargy. They hopped, from time to time, upon something elevated, shaking their wings and tail, and venting at intervals their cry *trac, trac*."—*Note communicated by M. de Quérhœnt.*

bill seems fit for nothing but grain. Belon and Androvandus assert, that they are not birds of passage: this may be true with respect to Greece and Italy; but it is certain, that, in the northern provinces of France, they shun the cold weather and the failure of the insects, for, they depart in September.

Some refer to this species the bird called in Provence the *fourmeiron* or *anter*\*, because it feeds chiefly on ants. The *anter* is solitary, and haunts only the ruins and rubbish of buildings: in cold weather, it sits on the chimney-tops, as if to warm itself†. This feature would induce us to range it rather with the redstart than with the Stone Chat, which constantly shuns towns and dwellings‡.

In England, and particularly among the

\* "The *fourmeiron* places itself at the hole of an ant-hill, so as to block it up completely; and the ants, pressing to get out, entangle themselves among its feathers: it then takes wing, and alights on some even ground, where it shakes its provision from its plumage; its table is spread; and it feasts on its game. Itself is good eating."—*Note of M. Guys, of Marseilles.*

† According to Messrs. Guys and de Piolenc. But the latter, while he ascribes this habit to the *fourmeiron*, judges it foreign to the Stone Chats. "I have never heard (says he) that they love warmth; and I believe that I have seen them remove from the fires made in the fields to burn turf, which shows that they dislike smoke." See the article of the redstart.

‡ It is seen commonly in all places, but it never comes to the hedges of villages or towns.—*Belon*, 360.

mountains of Derbyshire, there is a bird which Brisson terms the *English Stone Chat*. Ray, who calls it the *coldfinch*\*, says, that it is peculiar to that island: Edwards gives accurate figures of the male and female; and Klein mentions it by the name *variegated winged nightingale*. In fact, the white which marks not only the great coverts, but also the half of the small quills nearest the body, makes on the wing of this bird a spot much broader than in the common Stone Chat. Besides, the white colour covers all the fore and under part of the body, and makes a spot on the face; and the black spreads over the upper side of the body to the rump, which is barred with black and white: the quills of the tail are black, the outermost, white exteriorly; and the great quills of the wing, brown. All that is black in the male, is, in the female, of a dirty greenish-brown; the rest is also white: in both, the bill and legs are black.—This bird is of the size of the ordinary Stone Chat; and though it seems peculiar to England, and even to the hills of Derbyshire†, it must migrate, for sometimes it is seen in Brie.

\* *Muscicapa Aticapilla*.—Linn. Gmel. and Kram.

*Rubetra Anglicana*.—Briss.

*Curruca tergo nigro*.—Frisch.

The Pied Flycatcher.—Penn. and Lath.

† It is found sometimes also in Shropshire and Flintshire; and, according to Lepechin, inhabits Siberia, where a variety of this bird remains constantly.

W.

The species of the Stone Chat is spread from England \* and Scotland †, as far as Italy and Greece. It is very common in many parts of France. Nature seems to have exhibited it in the south, under various forms. We shall treat of these foreign Stone Chats, after describing a species which much resembles our Stone Chat, and which inhabits the same climates ‡.

\* Willughby.

† Siöbald.

‡ Its egg is blueish-green, with dull rufous spots. Whether this species entirely leaves England in winter, is uncertain.

## THE WHIN CHAT\*†.

THE species of the Whin Chat, though closely related to that of the stone chat, ought yet to be separated from it, since both inhabit the same places without intermixing; as in Lorraine†, where they are very common, but live

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA RUBETRA. S. nigricans, superciliis albis, macula alarum alba, gula pectoreque flavescente.—*Lath. Ind Orn.* ii. p. 525. No. 58.

MOTACILLA RUBETRA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 967.

RUBETRA MAJOR, sive RUBICOLA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 432. 26. t. 24. f. 1.

LE GRAND TRAQUET, ou TARIER.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 678. f. 2.

LE TARIER.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 273. pl. 144. f. 1.

ŒNANTHE SECUNDA.—*Raii Syn.* p. 76. A. 3.—*Will.* p. 234.

WHIN CHAT.—*Br. Zool.* i. No. 158.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 234.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 454. 54.—*Bew. Birds,* i. p. 240.

## HABITAT

in Europa usque in Spitsbergam; in Anglia in pratis et ericetis frequens. W.

† In German, *Flugen-Stakerle*, *Flugen-Stakerlin*, *Todten-Vogel*: in Silesian, *Noessel-Fincke*.

‡ "There is another little bird, of the bulk of the stone chat, different from all other birds, in its habits, its flight,

distinct. Their habits are different, as well as their plumage. The Whin Chat seldom perches; it is generally on the surface, among mole-hills, in fallow grounds, and in the high pasture lands beside the woods: the stone chat, on the contrary sits always in the bushes, or on vine-props. The Whin Chat is also larger than the stone chat, its length being five inches and three lines: the colours are nearly the same, only differently distributed; in the former, the upper side of the body is marked with brighter tints, each wing has a double spot, and a white line extends from the corner of the bill to the back of the head\*; a black space lies under the eye, and covers the cheeks, but does not spread, as in the stone chat, under the throat, which is of a light bay; this bay gradually softens, but may be distinguished

and in its mode of living and of building its nest; which the inhabitants of Lorraine call *tarier*. It lives in bushes, like the stone chat; and has a slender bill calculated for flies and worms: its nails, its legs, and its feet, are black; but the rest of its body resembles that of the mountain-finch, for it has a whitish spot across the wing, like the finch and the stone chat? however, its bill and its mode of life will not permit it to be ranged with the mountain-finches.—The male has spots on his back, and round his neck; his head resembles that of the mountain-finch; the extremities of the wings and of the tail are somewhat purple, as in that finch; but the bird is less spotted: some pretend that it is a species of stone chat.”—Belon, *Hist. des Oiseaux*, p. 361.

• Willughby.

on the white ground on all the fore-part of the body; the rump is of the same white colour, though more intense, and speckled with black; all the upper side of the body, as far as the crown of the head, is of a black, grounded and spotted with brown; the small quills and the great coverts are black. Willughby says, that the end of the tail is white: we have observed on the contrary, that, the quills are white in their first half from the root. But that naturalist himself found varieties in that part of the plumage of the Whin Chat; and mentions his having sometimes seen the two middle quills of the tail black, with a rufous border; and, at other times, with the same edging on a white ground. The female differs from the male, in its colours being paler, and the spots on the wings being not so apparent: it lays four or five eggs, of a dirty white, dotted with black\*.—The Whin Chat builds its nest like the stone chat; it arrives and departs with it, participates of its solitary instinct, and seems even more shy and wild; it prefers the mountainous tracts, and in some places it derives its name from that circumstance; thus the Bolognese fowlers call it *montanello*; and the appellations which Klein† and Gesner‡ give to it, mark its fondness for solitude in bleak and rugged

\* Mr. Latham says, that the egg of the Whin Chat is uniform sky blue.

† *Sylvia Petrarum*,

‡ *Passerculi genus solitarium*.



spots. The species is not so numerous as that of the stone chat\*; it feeds also on worms, flies, and insects: lastly, it is very fat about the end of summer, and it is then scarcely inferior in delicacy to the ortolan.

\* Belon.

## FOREIGN BIRDS

RELATED TO THE STONE CHAT AND WHIN CHAT.

THE SENEGAL STONE CHAT OR  
WHIN CHAT\*.

THIS bird is of the size of the Whin Chat, and seems closer allied to it than to the Stone Chat. Like the former, it has the double white spot on each wing, and no black on the throat; but it has not the black space under the eye; nor are its great wing coverts black, being only spotted black on a brown ground: in other respects, the colours are nearly the

## \* CHARACTER, SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA FERVIDA. *S. fusca rufo marginata, subtus flavescens-alba, pectore rufescente, maculis alarum duabus albis.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 525. No. 59.

MOTACILLA FERVIDA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 968.

LE TRAQUET DU SENEGAL.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 583. f. 1.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 278.

SULTRY WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 455. 55.

## HABITAT

in Senegala.

same as in the Stone Chat or Whin Chat, only they are more vivid over all the upper side of the body; the brown of the back is of a lighter rufous, and the black dashes are there better defined. This pleasing variety prevails from the crown of the head to the coverts of the tail; the middle quills of the wings are edged with rufous, the great ones with white, but more lightly; they are all blackish. But if the colours be more distinct on the upper side of this bird than in the common Stone Chat, they are, on the contrary, duller below, only the breast is slightly tinged with a fulvous red between the white of the throat and that of the belly.—This bird was brought from Senegal by Adanson.

## II.

### THE STONE CHAT from the ISLAND of LUÇON\*.

This Stone Chat is not quite so large as that of Europe, but it is rounder and stronger; its

#### CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA CAPRATA. *S. nigra*, uropygio crisso maculaque tectricum albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 524. No. 52.

MOTACILLA CAPRATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 986.

RUBETRA LUCIONENSIS.—*Bris.* iii. p. 442. 30. t. 24. f. 2. (mas.)—f. 3. (femina).

bill is thicker, and its legs not so slender. It is entirely of a dark brown, except a broad white bar on the coverts of the wing, and a little of a dull white under the belly. The female might, from its colours, be taken for a bird of quite a different species; a dun rufous covers all the under side of her body and the rump; the same colour shows itself on the head through the waves of a browner cast, which grow deeper on the wings and tail, and become of a very dull rusty brown.—The cock and hen were sent from the island of Luçon, where, Brisson says, they are called *maria-capra*.

LE TRAQUET de l'ISLE DE LUÇON.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 235.

f. 1. 2.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 280.

LUZONIAN WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 451. 48.

#### HABITAT

in Lucionensi insula.— $4\frac{3}{4}$  pollices longa.

W.

## III.

## STONE CHAT of the PHILIPPINES

It is of a still deeper black than the male of the preceding. It is larger, being near six inches; and its tail longer than in any of the Stone Chats; its bill and legs are also stronger; the only interruption of its plumage, which is black with violet reflexions, is the white spot on the wing.

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA FULICATA. S. nigro violacea, crisso castaneo, macula tectricum alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 524. No. 53.

MOTACILLA FULICATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 990.

RUBETRA PHILIPPENSIS.—*Bris.* iii. p. 444. 31. t. 23. f. 2.

LE TRAQUET NOIR des PHILIPPINES.—*Buff. Pl. Ent.* 185. f. 1.

AUTRE TRAQUET des PHILIPPINES.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 282.

SOOTY WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 451. 49.

## HABITAT

in Philippensibus insulis.—6 pollices longa.

W.

## IV.

## THE GREAT STONE CHAT of the PHILIPPINES\*.

This Stone Chat is larger than the preceding, being somewhat more than six inches in length; its head and throat are white, dashed with some spots of reddish and yellowish: a broad brick-coloured collar decorates the neck; and, below it, a scarf of a blueish-black covers the breast, and extends to the back, forming a short cope, with two large white spots thrown on the shoulders; the rest of the upper side of the body is black, with violet reflexions to the end of the tail; this black is inter-

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**SYLVIA PHILIPPENSIS.** S. nigro-violacea, subtus capiteque rufo-albo, pectore cærulescente, rectrice extima extus rufescente-alba.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 525. No. 56.

**MOTACILLA PHILIPPENSIS.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i., p. 968.

**RUBETRA PHILIPPENSIS MAJOR.**—*Bris.* iii. p. 446. 32. t. 22. f. 3.

**LE GRAND TRAQUET des PHILIPPINES.**—*Buff. Pl. Ent.* 185. f. 2 —*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 285.

**PHILIPPINE WARBLER.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 453. 52.

## HABITAT

in Phillippensibus insulis.—6½ pollices longa.

—W.

cepted on the wing by two small white bars, the one on the outer edge near the shoulder, the other at the extremity of the great coverts; the belly and stomach are of the same reddish-white with the head and throat; the bill, which is seven lines long, and the legs, which are thick and stout, are of a rust colour. Brisson says that the legs are black, and perhaps their colour varies: the wings reach to the end of the tail, which is different from what obtains in all other Stone Chats, where the wings scarcely extend to the middle of the tail.

## V.

## THE FITERT, or MADAGASCAR STONE CHAT\*.

Brisson has given a description of this bird, which we find to be very exact, on comparing

\* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**SYLVIA SYBILLA.** *S. nigricans, subtus alba, pectore rufo, rectricibus nigris, macula alarum alba.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 523. No. 50.

**MOTACILLA SYBILLA.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 992.

**RUBETRA MADAGASCARIENSIS.**—*Bris.* iii. p. 439. 28. t. 24. f. 4.

**LE TRAQUET de MADAGASCAR.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 285.

**SYBIL WARBLER.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 450. 47.

## HABITAT

in Madagascaria.

W.

it with a specimen sent to the king's cabinet. He tells us, that it is called *fitert* at Madagascar, and that its song is pleasant; this seems to show, that it is different from our Stone Chats, which have only a disagreeable chirp: they agree, however, in several prominent characters. It is rather larger than the European Stone Chat, being five inches four lines in length; the throat, the head, and all the upper side of the body to the tail, are black, only the back and shoulders have some rusty waves; the fore part of the neck, the stomach, and the belly, are white; the breast is rufous; the white colour of the neck is set off by the black of the throat and the rufous of the breast, and forms a sort of collar; the great coverts of each wing which are next the body are white, which makes a white spot on the wing; a little white also terminates the quills of the wing on their inside, and augments in proportion as they are nearer the body.



## VI.

## THE GREAT STONE CHAT\*.

This Stone Chat well deserves the epithet of *great*. It is seven inches and a quarter from the point of the bill to the extremity of the tail; and six inches and a half from the point of the bill to the end of the nails; the bill is an inch long, and not scalloped; the tail is about two inches, and is a little forked; the wings, when closed, cover the half of it; the *tarsus* is eleven lines; the mid toe seven, the hind one seven, and its nail the strongest of them all. Commerson has left an account of this bird, but makes no mention of the country where he saw it; however, the description we give of it is sufficient to enable travellers to recognise it. The chief colour of its plumage is brown; the head is variegated with two brown tints; a

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**SYLVIA MAGNA.** *S. fusca, subtus rufescens, gula albescente, remigibus rectricibusque rufo fuscoque dimidiatis, exterioribus duabus extus albis.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 525.  
No. 57.

**MOTACILLA MAGNA.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 968.

**LE GRAND TRAQUET.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 287.

**DARK WARBLER.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 453. 53.

**Longitudo** 7½ pollicum.

W.

light brown covers the upper side of the neck and body; the throat is mixed with brown and whitish: the breast is brown; and this is also the colour of the coverts of the wings, and of the outer edge of the quills, their inside being divided by rufous and brown; and this brown appears again at the extremity of the quills of the tail, and covers the half of the middle ones, the rest being rufous; and the outside of the two outer feathers is white; the under side of the body is rusty.

## VII.

### THE STONE CHAT of the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE\*.

M. de Roseneuvetz saw, at the Cape of Good Hope, a Stone Chat which has never been de-

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA SPERATA. S. fusco-viridis, subtus uropygioque rufo-grisea, rectricibus duabus intermediis nigricantibus lateralibus fusco-fulvo oblique dimidiatis.—*Lath. Ind Orn.* ii. p. 523. No. 51.

LE TRAQUET du CAP DE B. ESP.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 289  
SYBIL WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 450. 47. A.

#### HABITAT

ad Caput Bonæ Spei.—6 pollices longa.

scribed by naturalists. It is six inches long; the bill black, and seven lines in length, scalloped near the tip; the legs black; the *tarsus* an inch long: all the upper side of the body, including the neck and head, of a very brown-green; all the under side of the body, grey, with some tints of rufous; the rump is rufous; the quills and the coverts of the wings are brown, with a lighter border of the same colour; the tail is twenty-two lines in length, and the wings reach to its middle; it is somewhat forked: the two middle quills are of a blackish-brown; the two side ones are marked obliquely with brown on a fulvous ground, and this is the more remarkable in proportion as they are exterior. Another specimen, of the same size, brought also from the Cape of Good Hope by M. de Roseneuvetz, and deposited in the royal cabinet, is perhaps only the female. The whole upper side of the body is merely of a blackish-brown, the throat whitish, and the breast rufous. We are unacquainted with the habits of these birds; yet these are what alone form the interesting part of the history of animated beings. But how often have we been forced to regret, that we could only describe the appearance, and not delineate the character! All these incomplete facts ought however to be collected, and placed beside the immense range of observations; as the navigators insert in their charts the lands seen at distance.

## VIII.

## THE SPECTACLE WARBLER\*.

A circle of yellowish skin folded quite round the eyes, and resembling spectacles, is a singular character which distinguishes this bird. Commerson found it on the river *de la Plata*, near Montevideo, and the appellations † which he gives to it, allude to this uncommon conformation of the exterior of the eyes. It is of the size of a goldfinch, but thicker in the body: its head is round, and the crown raised; its plumage is of a fine black, except the white spot on the wing, which makes it resemble the

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA PERSPICILLATA. S. nigra, macula alarum alba, orbitis nudis carunculatis flavis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 524. No. 54.

MOTACILLA PERSPICILLATA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 969.

LE CLIGNOT, ou TRAQUET à LUNETTE.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 291.

SPECTACLE WARBLER.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 452. 50.

## HABITAT

in America, ad fluvium Plata.

† *Perspicillarius, Nictitarius, Lichenops*.—Clignot.

stone chats; this spot spreads broad over the middle of the first five quills, and terminates in a point about the end of the sixth, seventh, and eighth. In some subjects, there is also white on the lower coverts of the tail; in others, they are black as the rest of the plumage: the wing reaches only to the middle of the tail, which is two inches long, square when it is closed, and forming almost an equilateral triangle when it is spread; it consists of eight equal quills: the bill is straight, slender, yellowish at the upper part, and slightly bent or hooked at the end: the tongue is membranous, like a double-pointed arrow; the eyes are round; the iris yellow, and the pupil blueish. The singular membrane which encircles the eyes, is probably nothing but the skin of the eyelid naked and more expanded than ordinary, and consequently broad enough to make several folds. Such at least is the idea which Commerson suggests by comparing it to the wrinkled lichen, and telling us that the two portions of this membrane, which is fringed at the edges, meet when the bird shuts its eyes. We may also observe the *membrana nictitans*, which rises from the inner *canthus*. The legs and toes are slender and black; the hind toe is the thickest, and is as long as those before, though it has only one joint, and its nail is the strongest. Could this bird be bred separate from the rest of its kind, and exiled in the middle of the new continent?

It is at least the only one in America that is known to be related to the chats ; but the analogies which it bears to them are not so striking as the character which distinguishes it, and which nature has impressed as the stamp of those foreign lands which it inhabits.

## THE WHEAT-EAR

THIS bird is common in the country, and is continually among the clods in new-tilled

### CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA ŒNANTHE. S. dorso cano, fronte linea supra oculos uropygio basique caudæ albis, per oculos fascia nigra.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 529. No. 79.

MOTACILLA ŒNANTHE.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 966.—*Raii Syn.* p. 75. A. 1.—*Will.* p. 168. t. 41.

VITIFLORA.—*Bris.* iii. p. 449. 33.

LE CUL-BLANC, VITREC, ou MOTTEUX.—*Buff. Pl. Enl.* 554. f. 1. 2.

LE MOTTEUX†.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 317. pl. 143. f. 3.

WHEAT-EAR, FALLOW SMICH, WHITE-TAIL‡.—*Br. Zool.* i. No. 157.—*Arct. Zool.* ii. p. 420. P.—*Will. (Angl.)* p. 133. t. 41.—*Edw. Av.* pref. p. 12.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 465. 75. *Id. Sup.* p. 182.—*Bew. Birds,* i. p. 238.

### HABITAT

in Asia, Africa, frequentius in Europa.—5½ pollices longa.  
W.

† The old name in French was *Vitrec*; the vulgar one at present *Cul-blanc*.

‡ In Greek, *Οινανθη*, according to Belon, from *οινον*, a vine, and *ανθος*, a flower: the Latin *Vitiflora* is a translation of the Greek: in Italian, *Culo Bianco*, *Fornarola*, *Petragnola*: in German, *Stein-Schwaker*, *Stein-Schnappel*: in Swedish, *Stens-guetta*? in Norwegian, *Steen-Dolp*, *Steen-Gylpe*.

fields, and hence its name in French \*. It follows the furrow traced by the plough, and searches for worms, on which it feeds. When it is scared away, it never mounts high, but skims along the surface with a short rapid flight, and in its retreat it shows the white of the hind part of its body, by which it is easily distinguished in the air from all other birds, and hence its vulgar appellation among fowlers, *cul-blanc* †. It is also pretty frequent in fallow grounds, where it flies from stone to stone, and seems to shun the hedges and bushes, on which it does not perch near so often as on clods.

It is larger than the whin-chat, and taller, on legs which are black and slender; the belly is white, and so are the upper and under coverts of the tail, and nearly the half of its quills, of which the tips are black; they spread when it flies, and expose the white for which it is remarkable: the wing in the male is black, with some fringes of rusty white; the back is a fine ash-grey or blueish-grey, which extends to the white ground; a white spot rises at the corner of the bill, bends under the eye, and stretches beyond the ear; a white stripe bounds the face, and passes over the eyes. The female has neither this spot nor this stripe; its plumage is

*Motteux*, from *molte* a clod.

*White Arse*.



marked with a rusty-grey wherever that of the male is ash-grey ; its wing is more brown than black, and broad fringed as far as below the belly ; and on the whole it resembles as much, or more, the hen whin-chat than its proper male. The young resemble the parent birds exactly at the age of three weeks, the time at which they fly\*.

The bill of the Wheat-ear is slender at the tip and broad at the base, which enables it to seize and swallow the insects, on which it runs, or rather darts, rapidly, by a succession of short hops†. It is always on the ground ; and if it be put up, it only removes from one clod to another, flies always exceedingly low, and never enters the woods, nor perches higher than the hedges or small bushes. When seated, it wags its tail, and chirps with a dull sound, *tit-reù, tit-reù*‡ ; and, as often as it flies, it seems to pronounce distinctly, with a stronger voice, the words *far-far, far-far* ; it repeats these two cries with a degree of precipitancy.

It breeds under the tufts and clods in newly-ploughed fields, and under stones in fallow grounds, near quarries, in old rabbit-burrows§, or in the naked stone walls which are used for

\* Fabricius says, that in Greenland the females precede the males when the cold weather breaks up. In autumn they migrate to the south.

† Belon, Nat. des Oiseaux, p. 382.

‡ Hence perhaps its old French name *vitrec*, or *titrée*.

§ Willughby.

fences in hilly countries. Its nest is constructed with care; it is composed of moss or tender grass, and lined with feathers or wool; it is distinguished by a sort of covert placed above it, and stuck to the stone or clod under which the whole is formed. It lays generally five or six eggs, of a light blueish-white, with a circle at the large end of a duller blue. A female, which was caught on the eggs, had lost all the feathers from the middle of the stomach, as usual in the case of vigilant sitters. The male is attentive to his mate, and during the time of incubation he brings ants and flies: he watches near the nest, and when he observes one passing, he runs or flies before, and endeavours to draw notice till the person has got to a sufficient distance, and then he returns by a circuit to the nest.

The young ones are seen as early as the middle of May; for these birds have returned to our provinces as early as the first fine days in March\*. But frosts often surprise them after their arrival, and numbers perish; as happened in Lorraine in 1767†. There are many of them in that province, especially in the mountainous part: they are equally common in Burgundy and Bugey; but they are hardly seen in Brie, except towards the end of the summer‡. In general they prefer high countries, upland plains, and arid tracts. Great numbers are caught by

the English shepherds in the downs of Sussex about the beginning of autumn, at which time they are plump and of delicate flavour. Willughby describes the method of catching them: they cut up a long strip of turf, and invert it on the furrow, so as to leave only a narrow track, in which they place snares made of horse-hair. The birds are incited by a double motive; to procure food in the new-turned earth, and to conceal themselves under the sod. The appearance of a hawk, or even the shadow of a cloud, will drive them for shelter into those traps\*.

They all return in August and September, and no more are seen after that month. They journey in small bands; and in general they are of a solitary disposition, and no society exists among them but that of the male and female. Their wings are large†, and though among us they make little use of their power of flying, they probably exert it in their mi-

\* Mr. Pennant tells us, that in the district of Eastbourn in Sussex, one thousand eight hundred and forty dozens of Wheat-ears are at an average caught annually, which are sold commonly for sixpence a dozen. The reason why these birds are so numerous in that neighbourhood, is said to be the abundance of a certain species of fly on which they feed.

† Brisson says, that the first of the wing-quills is extremely short: but the feather which he takes to be the first of the great quills is only the first of the great coverts, inserted under the first quill, and not at the side of it.

grations\*. They must have once done so: for they are among the few birds which are common, to Europe and the south of Asia; since they are found in Bengal, and inhabit the extent of Europe, from Italy to Sweden.

The appellations† which the Wheat-ear receives in different parts of France, allude to its habits of living on the ground and in the holes; of sitting on the clods, and appearing to strike them with its tail. Its English names refer to its frequenting both fallow and tilled grounds, and to the whiteness of its rump. But the Greek term *œnanthe*, which naturalists have, from a conjecture of Belon, agreed to apply to it, seems not so characteristic or so proper as the preceding. The mere analogy of the word *œnanthe* to *vitiflora*, and the resemblance of this to the old French name *vitrec*, led Belon to form this opinion; for he does not explain why it was called *vine-flower* (*οἰνωθεύη*). It also arrives before the blowing of the vine, and continues long after the blossom is dropped; and it has therefore no connection with the flower of the vine. Aristotle describes it only as appearing and disappearing at the same time with the cuckoo‡.

\* Labilladiere took one at sea, which, fatigued with its long voyage, had perched on the vessel to rest. W.

† *Motteux*, *Tourne-motte*, *Brise-motte*, and *Terrasson*: i. e. clodder, turn-clod, break-clod, and earth-thrower.

‡ *Hist. Anim.* lib. x. 49.—Pliny says the same of the disappearance of the *œnanthe*; lib. x. 29. From this pas-

Brisson reckons five species of Wheat-ears:

## I. The WHEAT-EAR.

II. The GREY WHEAT-EAR, which he discriminates from the first only by that epithet, though that is equally grey. Its difference, according to Linnæus, who makes it a variety, is, that the plumage, which is of a pale color, in both, is marked with small whitish waves. Brisson adds another slight distinction in the breast feathers, which are, he says, sprinkled with little grey spots; and in those of the tail, of which the two middle ones have no white, though the rest are white three-fourths of their length. But the minute details of the various tints of the plumage would easily transform the same individual into several species; we have only to describe it nearer or farther from the season of moulting\*. To examine the productions of nature in this way is to lose sight of her design; it is to mistake the sportive superficial touches of her pencil, for the deep permanent strokes with which she has engraved the characters of animals.

sage, Father Hardouin infers that the *ananthe* is not the Wheat-ear, but a nocturnal bird.

\* Young Wheat-ears, taken the 20th of May, had the upper part of their body mottled with rusty and brown: the feathers of the rump are whitish, striped lightly with black; the throat and the under side of the body rufous, dotted with black: all this livery is cast the first year.

III. The third species of Brisson is, The CINEREOUS WHEAT-EAR\*; but the differences which he marks are too slight to discriminate them, especially since the epithet *cinereous* agrees as well with the common Wheat-ear, of which this is only a variety. Thus the three pretended species are reduced to one. But the fourth and fifth species of Brisson are more decidedly distinguished, viz. *The Rusty White-tail*, and *The Rufous-White-tail*.

The RUSTY WHEAT-EAR†, which is Brisson's fourth species, is rather less than the common Wheat-ear, being only six inches and three lines in length: the head, the fore-part of the body, and the breast, are whitish, mixed with a little rufous; the belly and the rump are of a lighter white; the upper side of the neck and back is light rusty. It might be readily taken for the female of the common Wheat-ear, if some individuals had not the character of the male, the black stripe on the cheek between

\* "Above cinereous white, mixed with grey-brown; below white; the rump grey-brown; the lower part of the neck light tawny; the forehead bright white; a black spot below the eyes: of the two middle quills of the tail their first half is white, and the other blackish; the lateral ones white, terminated with blackish; the three outermost on both sides fringed with whitish at the tips."—Brisson.

† "White; the top, the upper part of the back, and the breast, dilute tawny; a black bar on the eyes; the two middle tail quills black, fringed with black on both sides near the tip."

the bill and the ear; so that this would seem to be a permanent variety. It is found in Lorraine near the mountains; but it is not so frequent as the ordinary species. It also inhabits the vicinity of Bologna in Italy; and Aldrovandus calls it *strapazzino*. Brisson tells us that it occurs in Languedoc, and that at Nîmes it is termed *reynauby*.

The fifth species of Brisson\* is, The RUF-  
OUS WHEAT-EAR. Both male and female have been described by Edwards, who received them from Gibraltar. One of them had not only the black stripe between the bill and the ear, but its throat was entirely of the same colour: a character that was wanting in the other, whose throat was white, and the tints paler; the back, the neck, and the crown of the head, were of a yellow-rufous; the breast, the top of the belly, and the sides, were of a diluter yellow; the lower belly and the rump, white; the tail white, fringed with black, except the two middle quills, which are entirely

\* *Motacilla Stapazina*.—*Gmel.*

*Sylvia Stapazina*.—*Lath. Ind.*

Specific character: "It is ferruginous; its wings brown; the space about its eyes and its tail black; its outermost tail-quill white at the edge." Thus described by Brisson: "yellowish-rufous; its rump and lower belly white (the cheeks and throat black in the male; a black bar on the eyes in the female); the two middle tail-quills black; the lateral ones white, fringed with black."

black ; those of the wing are blackish, and their great coverts edged with light brown. This bird is nearly the size of the common Wheat-ear. Aldrovandus, Willughby, and Ray, speak of it under the name of *œnanthe altera*. We may regard it as a species closely related to the common Wheat-ear, but much less frequent in the temperate countries\*.

\* In England the Wheat-ears arrive between March and May, and retire in September.



## FOREIGN BIRDS

WHICH ARE RELATED TO THE WHEAT-EAR.

### THE GREAT WHEAT-EAR, or WHITE-TAIL, of the Cape of Good Hope\*.

M. DE ROSENEUVETZ sent us this bird, which has not been described by any naturalist. It is eight inches long; its bill ten lines, its tail thirteen, and the *tarsus* fourteen. It is much larger than the European kind: the upper side of the head is slightly variegated with two

#### \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA HOTTENTOTTA. *S. fulvo-fusca*, subtus gulaque albida, vertice pectorque nebulosis, abdomine superiore uropygioque fulvis, rectricibus lateralibus basi albis.—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 531. No. 82.

MOTACILLA HOTTENTOTTA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 963.

LE GRAND MOTTEUX, ou CUL-BLANC du CAP DE B. E.  
—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 333.

CAPE WHEAT-EAR.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 470. 78.

#### HABITAT

ad Caput Bonæ Spei.—8 pollices longa.

browns, whose tints melt into each other; the rest of the upper side of the body is fulvous-brown as far as the rump, where there is a transverse bar of light fulvous; the breast is variegated, like the head, with two shades of brown, which are confused and indistinct; the throat is dirty-white, tinged with brown; the higher part of the belly and the flanks are fulvous; the lower belly is dirty-white, and the inferior coverts of the tail light fulvous; but the superior ones are white, and so are the quills as far as their middle: the rest is black, terminated with dirty-white, except the two middle ones, which are entirely black, and tipped with fulvous; the wings are of a brown cast, edged slightly with light fulvous on the great quills, and more slightly on the middle quills and on the coverts.

## II.

## THE GREENISH-BROWN WHEAT-EAR\*.

This species was also brought from the Cape of Good Hope by M. de Roseneuvetz. It is smaller than the preceding, being only six inches long; the upper side of its head and body is variegated with black, brown, and greenish-brown; these colours also mark distinctly the coverts of the wings; but the great coverts of the wings, and those of the tail, are white: the throat is dirty-white; there is also

## \* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

**SYLVIA AURANTIA.** *S. nigricans viridi nebulosa, subtus fulvescens, gula macula tectricum tectricibus caudæ reatricibusque lateralibus apice albis.*—*Lath. Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 531. No. 83.

**MOTACILLA AURANTIA.**—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 965.

**LE MOTTEUX, ou CUL-BLANC BRUN VERDATRE.**—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 335.

**ORANGE-BREASTED WHEAT-EAR.**—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 470. 79.

## HABITAT

cum præcedente.—6 pollices longa.

W.

a mixture of that colour and of black on the fore-part of the neck: the breast is tinged with orange, which grows dilute below the belly; the inferior coverts of the tail are entirely white; the quills are blackish-brown, and the lateral ones are tipped with white. This bird has, still more than the preceding, all the characters of the common Wheat-ear, and we can scarcely doubt that their habits are nearly the same.

III.

THE SENEGAL WHEAT-EAR\*.

It is rather larger than the European species and resembles the female exactly; only the back has a little more of the reddish cast.

\* CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

SYLVIA LEUCORHOA. *S. rufo-fusca*, subtus albo-flavescens pectore rubescente, uropygio basique caudæ albis.—*Lath Ind. Orn.* ii. p. 531. No. 81.

MOTACILLA LEUCORHOA.—*Gmel. Syst.* i. p. 966.

LE MOTTEUX du SENEGAL.—*Buff. par Sonn.* li. p. 337.

LE CUL-BLANC du SENEGAL.—*Pl. Enl.* 583. 2.

RUFIOUS WHEAT-EAR.—*Lath. Syn.* iv. p. 469. 77.

HABITAT

in Senegala,—7 pollices longa.

W.











